

# THE MILITANT

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to NAACP convention

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## Gov't admits lack of proof in New York bombing trial

BY NAOMI CRAINE

NEW YORK — In opening arguments at the trial of four men accused of bombing the World Trade Center here, prosecutor Gilmore Childers admitted that evidence in the government's case is entirely circumstantial; there are no witnesses who claim they saw the defendants do anything in connection with the blast.

Many news reports have described the government's case as weaving a complex "web" of circumstances and associations.

As part of his attempts to drown the lack of evidence in the "horror" of the incident, Childers described the bombing, in which six people were killed and 1,000 injured, as "the single most destructive act of terrorism ever committed here in the United States." Several witnesses during the first three days of testimony gave emotional accounts of being in the building at the time of the February 26 explosion.

Defense lawyers agreed that the bombing was "a terrible happening," but pointed out that the real question is whether the accused — Mohammed Salameh, Nidal Ayyad, Mahmud Abouhalima, and Ahmad Ajaj — are guilty of the charges. All four maintain their innocence.

From the beginning the cops, government officials, and media have used the World Trade Center bombing to attack democratic rights and call for tighter restrictions on immigration.

One defendant, Ajaj, was actually in jail at the time of the bombing, and had been for the previous six months, ever since he arrived in the United States from Pakistan. The prosecutor made much of the fact that he allegedly entered the country with bomb

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## Detroit cops who killed Black man sentenced to jail

BY CINDY JAQUITH

DETROIT — The two cops who beat Malice Green to death here last November were sentenced to prison October 12 and taken immediately to jail. The police officers had been convicted August 23 of second-degree murder in the slaying of the unemployed steelworker who was Black.

Larry Nevers was sentenced to 12–25 years and will be eligible for parole in about 9 years. Walter Budzyn received 8–18 years with the possibility of release after 6 and a half years.

Green was killed when the cops savagely beat him on the head with their flashlights after stopping his car in a working-class neighborhood in the city's southwest side.

Budzyn had infuriated jurors and thousands of workers in Detroit when he testified in court that he never struck Green nor did he see Nevers or any other cops strike any blows.

Defense lawyers pleaded with Judge George Crockett to allow the cops to remain free on bond pending an appeal. The judge refused, and ordered them taken into custody.

The live television broadcasts of the three-hour sentencing session were watched by hundreds of thousands of people, including workers in the neighborhood where Green was slain. Many gathered at the murder site and applauded when the sentences

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# Clinton uses Haiti crisis to push for intervention

## Haitian military aborts plan for Aristide's return

BY HILDA CUZCO

Armed rightist thugs with the full backing of Haiti's military rulers have stepped up their violent attacks against working people and other supporters of democratic rights. This has led to the virtual collapse of the United Nations-brokered accord signed last July calling for the return to power of Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted in a September 1991 military coup.

Washington is using the political crisis in the Caribbean country to assert its right to

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intervene and establish a government it can control with the presence of U.S. troops on the island.

Under the guise of "defending democracy" in Haiti, the United States government is planning to send 600 troops to help "retrain" the Haitian military and police.

The U.S. military, however, has trained and equipped the armed forces of successive dictatorial regimes in Haiti for decades.

On October 11, a crowd of about 100 people gathered, with open police support, by the harbor in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, to



Policeman in Port-au-Prince leading march against Aristide's return. Washington is responsible for setting up Haiti's repressive military force in the first place. The Pentagon is now planning to send hundreds of troops supposedly to "retrain" these same thugs.

block the landing of a U.S. ship carrying 193 U.S. troops and 25 from Canada.

Meanwhile, a larger group of several hundred people, carrying the red and black flag of former dictator François Duvalier, set up barricades along some of the main streets and shouted threats that they would "burn

all foreigners."

The demonstrators were led by known supporters of the Duvalier family dictatorship, which ruled the country for 29 years until being overthrown by the Haitian masses in 1986. They proceeded to seize the state

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# U.S. deploys 20,000 troops in Somalia, threatens major assault on Mogadishu

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

On October 7 U.S. president Bill Clinton ordered the quadrupling of Washington's military presence in Somalia and off its shores to more than 20,000 troops. The White House threatened to use the new deployment to launch a major assault in the

capital city of Mogadishu.

In announcing the troop buildup — which the U.S. president motivated as necessary to ensure "an honorable withdrawal" of U.S. forces "on our terms" by March 31 — Clinton made clear that all U.S. troops would be under Washington's command, not that of the United Nations.

Forces loyal to Somali general Mohammed Farah Aidid declared a unilateral cease-fire October 9. However, U.S. and UN spokespeople stated this would not change the character of their military operations in Mogadishu.

Adding to the 4,700 troops already in Somalia, the Pentagon dispatched another 1,700 soldiers to Mogadishu and 3,600 Marines to ships offshore. An additional force of about 10,000 sailors and airmen will be stationed on a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and eight other warships. Prior to this move no U.S. battleships had been stationed off Somalia.

The new military hardware being sent into Somalia includes 104 tanks and other armored vehicles, 103 helicopters, 60 warplanes aboard the *Abraham Lincoln*, and 4 AC-130 artillery gunships. Assembling this full entourage of equipment is expected to take several weeks.

The landing of these new troops is "making Mogadishu appear more like a city under military mobilization than

one that is under a truce," stated an October 11 article in the *New York Times*.

Clinton's escalation of the war in Somalia followed a bloody 15-hour confrontation October 3–4 in which 300 Somalis were killed and about 700 wounded, one-third of them women and children. U.S. units suffered nearly 100 casualties.

Thousands of Somalis marched through the streets of Mogadishu October 10 in opposition to the U.S. military buildup. They chanted slogans for peace and support for Aidid's declared cease-fire.

## Somalis fear renewed U.S. attacks

U.S. forces responded with a further effort to terrorize the population of the capital city. Newly arrived AC-130 gunships conducted what they termed "target practice" in sparsely populated areas just outside Mogadishu. The explosions sent Somalis scurrying for cover. Navy jets also streaked across the capital's skies October 11 from a just-arrived aircraft carrier.

Several days earlier, U.S. helicopters dropped leaflets telling civilian residents to clear a several-block area in southern Mogadishu. Hundreds of people fled the city, fearing an impending U.S. attack.

The Pentagon plans a truly massive operation in Somalia's capital city. According to an article in the October 10 *New York Times*, the plan calls for "clearing whole neighborhoods" of Somalis who possess arms. This

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U.S. soldiers in Mogadishu

Why is Washington invading Somalia? — page 11





## IN BRIEF

### Grenada hotel workers strike

Some 60 hotel workers demonstrated in front of the Renaissance Hotel in Grenada to win support for their strike and to protest management's attempts to impose changes to a negotiated contract. Members of the Bank and General Workers Union began their strike September 27 when employers demanded provisions that included denying the union permission to meet with members at the work site. The hotel manager issued a call for scabs to replace strikers.

### Student killed in Caracas protest

Thousands of students and professors marched through the streets of Caracas, Venezuela, September 23 to protest university budget cuts. Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets into the crowd, killing one demonstrator and wounding at least six others. The attack was the worst since street protests started last May, when Congress suspended President Carlos Pérez and the Supreme Court charged him with laundering public funds. Similar protests took place in cities across the country, including Barquisimeto, Valencia, Maracay, and Mérida.

### Cuba plans foreign trade zone

The Cuban government is opening a foreign trade zone and decentralizing some commerce decisions in an effort to boost international trade. The *Miami Herald* reported that Pedro Monreal of Havana's Center for American Studies and other Cuban trade officials discussed the changes at a recent conference at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario.

The trade zone, called Havana Inbond, is scheduled to be inaugurated in December 1993. It is expected to operate similarly to Panama's Colón Free Zone, where internationally produced goods are stored, sold, and redistributed free of duties as long as they don't enter the domestic market. There are plans for a second "free trade zone" where materials will be processed or assembled.

Cuba's five eastern provinces will reportedly create their own organization for trade with countries in the Caribbean. Trade is currently centralized in Havana. Leaders of the 13-member Caribbean Community approved a joint technical cooperation commission with Cuba at their July summit. Havana's nonpetroleum trade with Caribbean countries has increased from \$8.6 million in



Thousands of students marched in Mexico City September 24 to commemorate the dozens, perhaps hundreds, of youths killed by the army at a protest 25 years ago. Demonstrators called for the release of government files on the shooting. The demands that fueled the 1960s student movement, drawing as many as 350,000 people to rallies, included greater university autonomy and freedom for political prisoners.

1990 to \$19 million in 1992. If oil is included, commerce jumps to more than \$100 million. Travel links have also increased.

### Congress tightens Cuba embargo

The U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment September 28 that requires foreign-based Defense Department contractors to report commercial transactions with Cuba. Rep. Robert Torricelli, who authored a series of embargo-tightening measures that were enacted last year, is seeking a Senate cosponsor for his new bill.

The legislation requires military contractors to disclose to the secretary of defense any commercial transactions worth more than \$500,000 with Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, or Syria. Torricelli said he will oppose all contracts with European and Japanese firms that report doing business with Cuba.

### Report contradicts Reno on Waco

An investigative report issued by the Justice Department October 8 contradicts U.S.

attorney general Janet Reno's justifications for a tank-and-tear-gas assault on a religious sect in Waco, Texas. The attack ended in a fire that left more than 80 people dead last April. Reno said she ordered the attack, which followed a 51-day siege of the group's ranch, because children inside were being abused. But the official investigation found no evidence to back up that claim. The attorney general refused to discuss the discrepancies, saying it might get in the way of prosecuting survivors charged in the deaths of four cops during the raid that began the siege.

The 350-page chronology also noted that while some FBI agents were negotiating with Branch Davidian leader David Koresh others were carrying out "psychological warfare" against the group. Nevertheless, Edward Dennis, the former Justice Department official who headed up the review, concluded that the FBI "exhibited extraordinary restraint and handled this crisis with great professionalism," clearing Reno and all other officials involved of any wrongdoing.

### Washington raises grazing fees

Democrats in the House and Senate agreed October 7 to raise the fees that ranchers pay to graze their livestock on federal land in 16 western states. The pact calls for increasing grazing fees over the next three years to \$3.45 from \$1.86 each month for every cow and calf. Last February President Bill Clinton had proposed raising the charge to \$5 a month for every cow and calf or five sheep. Some 30,000 families hold grazing permits. Most are small family ranchers, many of whom will be driven off the land by the increase.

### Canadian cop reinstated

Catham, Ontario, cop Ron Tricker re-

turned to work at police headquarters in mid-September, days after being sentenced to three years in jail on a manslaughter conviction. Tricker is out on bail pending an appeal. He was found guilty in June in the asphyxiation death of John Rioux, who the cop claimed had been speeding.

### HIV blood used in Germany

Horst Seehofer, Germany's minister of health, conceded that at least 373 patients were given transfusions with blood infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, before 1985 in German hospitals. Ute Braun, chairperson of the German Hemophilia Society, said the number of infected patients was actually 1,500 to 2,000. Seehofer refuses to step down over accusations that the government's ties to pharmaceutical and insurance companies caused it to hide the problem, leading to the death of an estimated 400 people. Seehofer addressed parliament after news reports quoted a man from Hamburg who said his insurance company threatened to cut off his medical benefits if he pursued claims that he received HIV-infected blood.

### Social democrats win in Greece

Andreas Papandreu's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) won parliamentary elections in Greece October 10. Papandreu was prime minister between 1981 and 1989. PASOK defeated the ruling New Democracy Party (NDP), receiving 46 percent of the vote compared to 40 percent for NDP. Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis was forced to call early elections September 9 when several NDP deputies split from the party after the government conceded defeat in its efforts to prevent international recognition of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Mitsotakis had become unpopular among many popular people after imposing a series of austerity measures.

### PLO council ratifies accord

The central council of the Palestine Liberation organization (PLO) ratified the Israeli-PLO accord and elected PLO chairman Yasser Arafat as head of the Palestine National Authority. The authority, which will supervise self-rule in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip, is to be established within two months of Israel's troop withdrawal.

Israeli government officials expressed fear that violence will escalate in the occupied territories by those opposed to the agreement. On October 9, Israeli sailors killed a Palestinian as he rode a jet ski off the coast of Lebanon. Authorities said he was heavily armed and was allegedly planning to attack a northern Israeli beach. The same day two Israeli hikers were killed in Wadi Qelf, a scenic riverbed in the desert near Jericho. In Amman, Jordan, a group known as Islamic Holy War claimed responsibility for the attack.

—PAT SMITH

## THE MILITANT

### Why is Clinton escalating Somalia war?

**Was U.S. invasion of Somalia ever a 'humanitarian mission'? Why are Patrick Buchanan and other rightists calling for U.S. troops to get out? The 'Militant' provides analysis and facts you can't find anywhere else, including on the resistance of Somalis to Washington's war. Don't miss a single issue!**



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# Campaign challenges U.S. government ban on travel to Cuba

BY JANICE LYNN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A well attended news conference at the National Press Club here October 8 demonstrated broad support for the Freedom to Travel Campaign, the latest challenge to Washington's embargo and ban on travel to Cuba.

About 175 people from 25 states are participating in the week-long trip to Cuba in open defiance of travel restrictions imposed by the U.S. government. Regulations prohibit U.S. citizens from spending any money in the Caribbean island, with a few exceptions for journalists, researchers, and Cuban-Americans visiting family members.

"The purpose of the trip is to learn about Cuba and to exercise our constitutional right to travel," stated Medea Benjamin, executive director of Global Exchange, a key endorser of the project. More than 50 organizations have voiced their support for the challenge to the travel ban.

The group departed October 10 from Cancun, Mexico, for Havana. They booked passage there through a Cuban travel agency, and plan to spend U.S. currency on the island. Participants could face up to 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$50,000 civil penalty for making the trip.

In 1990, the U.S. government fined Dan Snow of Kingston, Texas, \$5,000, jailed him for 90 days, and required him to do 1,000 hours of community service for "trading with the enemy." Snow, a bass fisherman, had organized several fishing expeditions to Cuba since 1977. This is the only known conviction since the travel ban was put in place 30 years ago.

Michael Krinsky, general counsel to the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and Kate Martin of the American Civil Liberties Union both spoke at the National Press Club, pledging their organizations' assistance in defending anyone who might be prosecuted for traveling to Cuba.

In answer to one question, supporters of the project said that a corollary to the right to travel to Cuba is the right of Cubans to visit the United States. "Time and again, Cubans who are invited to the United States on educational and cultural exchanges are arbitrarily denied entry visas by the U.S. State Department," said a statement put out by the Freedom to Travel Campaign.

In Los Angeles, Pediatricians and Parents for Peace announced its participation in the campaign. The group has collected \$10,000 worth of insulin that will be donated to a children's hospital in Cuba as part of the trip. A delegation of 14 people, ranging in age from 14 to 62, make up the Minnesota contingent of the travel group.



Militant/Tony Lane.

Last month in Minneapolis, opponents of U.S. embargo against Cuba held meeting pictured above to celebrate successful U.S.-Cuba Friendship and plan further activities in opposition to the embargo. Pictured at right is Tom Hansen, a leader of Pastors for Peace, who is participating in Freedom to Travel trip.

Janice Lynn is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1759 in Washington, D.C. Sherrie Love in Los Angeles and Jon Hillson, a member of the United Transportation Union in St. Paul, Minnesota, contributed to this article.

## Yeltsin acts to stifle Russian opponents

BY GREG ROSENBERG

In the wake of the military assault on the parliament building in Moscow and the bloody crushing of his opponents, Russian president Boris Yeltsin concentrated his powers even more and extended a state of emergency.

The intrabureaucratic conflict left a total of 187 dead and 437 wounded. Two hundred people who took part in the attempt to militarily seize power from Yeltsin remain

locked up. The state of emergency in Russia was to have ended on October 10, but was extended to October 17.

Moscow city commandant, Gen. Alexander Kulikov, said October 9 that any attempt to organize demonstrations would be suppressed. There do not appear to be efforts to defy this ban, since most working people have quietly watched the conflict between the rival bureaucrats from the sidelines.

On October 8, Yeltsin's Justice Ministry

suspended the Communist Party (CP), the remnants of the former ruling Stalinist party whose apparatus disintegrated in the wake of the failed coup attempt in August 1991.

The banning of the CP brought the number of suspended groups to 10. While some press restrictions have been lifted, 13 newspapers remain closed.

The Yeltsin regime, however, warned journalists not to abuse their freedom. "Any careless, irresponsible word can inflame [passions] again," said Yeltsin.

The Russian president used his victory against rival bureaucrats in Moscow to whip regional councils throughout Russia into line.

Yeltsin told the regional bodies to discuss their own dissolution, and decreed that henceforth all governors and heads of regional administrations will be appointed and dismissed by the president. Over the past year, some local governors had sided with the parliamentary group headed by Ruslan Khasbulatov against Yeltsin.

Nikolai Ryabov, head of the Central Election Commission, said that all but three of Russia's regional and territorial governments have agreed to hold elections for a new national parliament.

To run candidates for the new Duma, or lower house, parties must collect 100,000 signatures from at least seven regions of the country. Elections to both houses of the Federal Assembly are scheduled for December 11 and 12.

While Washington and capitalist governments from western Europe to Tokyo vigorously supported Yeltsin during the recent crisis, the lack of any prospects for stability throughout Russia and the former Soviet republics is a source of tension.

Yeltsin has promised to accelerate the pace of reforms — moves designed to pave the way for the restoration of capitalism in Russia and salvos against the wages and social benefits of the working class. Most of the reform proposals are left deliberately vague at this stage. Yeltsin wants these measures to accelerate International Monetary Fund loans and hoped-for integration into the world capitalist market.

"For ordinary people," said Sergei Vasiliev, head of a government economic reform center, "it is not felt to be so bad that there is a strong man in the Kremlin once more."

Decrees announced by Yeltsin would lift price controls on bread and rent, with more yet to come.

According to Fyodor Prokopov, head of Russia's federal employment service, while official unemployment is 800,000, the real figure is much higher. The official statistics don't count part-time workers, and those given unpaid "holidays," which Prokopov estimated at 3 million.

"In all, we reckon between 5-7 million would be really unemployed in normal conditions." That is 7-10 percent of the working population.

## Clinton seeks military intervention in Haiti

Continued from front page

radio station that had only just been taken back by Aristide's transitional government the previous week.

The U.S. troops on their way to Haiti were to form part of a UN-organized force of 1,300 soldiers there.

In addition to setting October 30 as the date on which Aristide would return to the country and the presidency, the July 3 agreement called for amnesty for Raoul Cédras, the army commander who ousted Aristide, and other coup leaders, and for military police chief Joseph François to resign.

### Economic sanctions to be reimposed

U.S. president Bill Clinton put the U.S. troop deployment to Haiti on hold and instead urged the UN Security Council to once again impose economic sanctions against the Caribbean country.

The economic sanctions were first put in place at the demand of working people in Haiti as a way to pressure the military government to restore power to Aristide. They have been only half-heartedly enforced by Washington and the United Nations.

On October 13, the Security Council voted to reimpose the sanctions in five days unless the military government abides by the UN-brokered accord.

Aristide, speaking in Washington, supported Clinton's call to renew the embargo.

At the end of August the council suspended its arms and oil embargoes, imposed last June, and released the frozen assets of Haiti's military leaders. The Organization of American States also suspended its economic sanctions around the same time.

Recent events in Haiti have led to a broad debate about U.S. and UN military intervention on the island.

On October 13, hundreds of Haitians marched from the federal courthouse in downtown Miami to Little Haiti. "CIA, Pezzullo get your killers out of Haiti," read the main banner. Lawrence Pezzullo is the special U.S. State Department envoy to Haiti.

"We just have to wait and see," said one Haitian when asked what he thought about

the UN presence. "At least if the U.S. and UN troops go in some of the worst repression will end," said another.

Others in the crowd pointed to U.S. complicity with Haiti's military rulers. At the same time most demonstrators supported the troops going in.

At the Miami airport one Haitian worker said, "The United States has never helped the Haitian people and we can see what they're doing in Somalia today."

Another said, "I don't like the U.S. troops going to Haiti but I think the French and Canadians will help." At a meeting of the Haitian solidarity group Veye-Yo October 12, most were for U.S. or UN intervention, although a few were not.

In the last two days, more than 500 people have demonstrated for hours in front of the Haitian Activity Center in Little Haiti to demand return of Aristide to their country. The protests, which have closed the road to traffic, are expected to continue.

In recent weeks, a number of neighborhoods in Haiti have become the scene of nightly raids by roving bands of thugs spraying automatic-weapons fire in an effort to terrorize the local population.

### Rising wave of rightist attacks

Since the signing of the accords in July, more than 100 assassinations and 30 "disappearances" have been documented just in the city of Port-au-Prince. Other individuals have been subjected to torture and interrogation.

On October 7, plainclothes gunmen in close collaboration with the police successfully shut down businesses, markets, and transportation in Port-au-Prince. They fired on merchants, seriously wounding at least two people who resisted the strike declared by rightist forces. The goons forcibly turned back buses that ventured into town and chased residents back into their homes.

Several days earlier, two leading pro-Aristide politicians — Evans Paul, mayor of Port-au-Prince, and Jean-Claude Bajeux — narrowly escaped assassination attempts. About 30 heavily armed individuals looking for Paul busted up a political meeting held in a local hotel. Moments

before the attack, the mayor, who had been a target of repeated threats from police auxiliaries, had left the hotel.

A month earlier armed thugs killed 5 and wounded 31 outside Port-au-Prince's City Hall as Paul attempted to reclaim his office.

On September 11, Antoine Izmerly, a businessman who bankrolled Aristide's 1990 presidential campaign, was dragged out of church by a handful of armed men with well-known ties to the Haitian police and shot to death. Shortly afterward, the prosecutor investigating the crime resigned and fled the country because of threats made to his life.

A leading force behind many of these attacks is François, commander of Haiti's military police. He has stated that he has no intention of stepping down from his position, as the UN agreement requires.

Shortly after the 1991 military coup, François began organizing what is now a vast network of police "attachés" who terrorize neighborhoods by night and hang around government ministries during the day to prevent members of Aristide's transitional government from occupying their offices.

According to an article in the September 28 *Carib News*, "political analysts put the number of 'attachés' anywhere from 100 to 10,000."

On September 30, the second anniversary of the coup, several hundred Duvalier supporters marched in Port-au-Prince chanting anti-Aristide slogans. Some demonstrators carried U.S. flags and demanded that UN envoy Dante Caputo be expelled from the country and replaced with a U.S. diplomat. The march, which was organized by the recently formed Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH), wound its way through downtown as participants gave out leaflets with photographs of the former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier.

A number of Haitian organizations and international supporters are organizing a march in Port-au-Prince October 30 to support Aristide's planned return.

Rollande Girard, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Miami, contributed to this article.



# New initiative boosts talks on N. Ireland

BY SHELLIA KENNEDY

MANCHESTER, England — A new initiative on Northern Ireland advanced by both Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, and John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), has won the endorsement of the prime minister of the republic of Ireland, Albert Reynolds. Sinn Fein is the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). The contents of the agreement have not yet been made public.

"This may be the most important political initiative since Northern Ireland was established in 1920," Paul Arthur, a professor of politics at Ulster University in Belfast, said. "It is the first initiative that tries to bring all the players in to play."

This development comes at a time when negotiations have been stalled for some months. These talks — between London, Dublin, the SDLP, and the Unionist (pro-British) parties represented in the British Parliament — were initiated by the British government, which is attempting to find a new constitutional arrangement toward Ireland. Sinn Fein has been excluded from the negotiations. Patrick Mayhew, Britain's secretary of state for Northern Ireland, and Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister, have instructed a joint working party of civil servants to present a constitutional draft by the end of October.

Not everyone in British ruling class circles agrees with this goal. Home Secretary Michael Howard, for example, said on BBC television's "Question Time" that talk of a "settlement" in Ireland was "dangerous."

## Partition of Ireland

Ireland was partitioned more than 70 years ago. At that time the 26 counties of southern Ireland gained political independence while the six counties of Northern Ireland remained a British colony, part of the "United Kingdom." A mass civil rights movement in Northern Ireland in the mid- to late-1960s, which demanded an end to discrimination against the Catholic minority in housing, jobs, education, and political representation, was met with violence by the police and rightist paramilitaries, and by the decision in 1969 of the Labour government in London to send in troops. Twenty-four years later, the British government maintains nearly 20,000 soldiers in Northern Ireland and an inflated bureaucracy. Three thousand people have been killed there to date. The military stalemate between the British army and the IRA combined with an economic slump, increasing inter-imperialist competition, and the relative weakness of British capitalism vis-a-vis the United States and other European capitalists, means that London can't rule over Ireland the same old way.

The continued cost of maintaining a colony in Northern Ireland — estimated at £2 billion (US\$3 billion) a year, is a drain on the British economy and limits London's ability to use its troops elsewhere in the world.

Washington has suggested sending a special U.S. envoy to participate in the negotiations, an idea that London has rejected. "The Irish government should also note that undermining Britain's special relationship with the United States would cause long-lasting damage to the rapprochement between London and Dublin," the September 1 *Independent* noted. "Both sides should

step back and recognize the cost of such breakdown, which would hand the political initiative to the IRA."

The human rights abuses by British forces in Ireland have also been coming more into the spotlight. On September 28 British permanent under-secretary to Northern Ireland, John Chilcot, refused to answer questions in a U.S. court regarding the shoot-to-kill policy of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). The questioning came during extradition hearings for James Smyth. Smyth, an IRA activist, argues he will face political persecution if he is forced to return to Ireland. Chilcot admitted it would be impossible to guarantee that Smyth would not be "verbally or physically abused by security personnel" or murdered by loyalist death squads.

Mayhew responded to the Sinn Fein-SDLP initiative by saying that he would not negotiate with "people who support violence, but that if there were matters which the Irish government wished to discuss he would consider them."

## Sinn Fein demands Irish self-determination

BY IAN GRANT  
AND SHELLIA KENNEDY

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — In an interview conducted here in August, Richard McAuley, press officer for Sinn Fein, spoke about recent political developments in the ongoing fight against British occupation. Sinn Fein is the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Attacks by loyalist death squads on Sinn Fein councilors, and indiscriminately against Catholics, have been escalating. Thirteen Sinn Fein members, three of them elected local government representatives, have been murdered in the last four years by rightist paramilitary forces. More than 100 Catholics have been killed by loyalist death squads in the same period. Loyalists support the British occupation.

"The central thrust of British strategy for two decades has been to undermine the republicans' political base within the nationalist community," said McAuley. "In 1985 Sinn Fein stood for the first time in local government elections and won 11.8 percent of the vote. The Anglo-Irish agreement [which first initiated the negotiations between London and Dublin] came along six months later, censorship and other measures followed in its wake."

"We fought in local government elections again this May," the Sinn Fein leader continued, "and secured more votes than in 1985. That must tell the British government that if its strategy is aimed at undermining the republicans' base, it isn't working."

"The British government has been abusing human rights here for two and a half decades," said McAuley. "They have the worst record of any government in Europe in front of the European Court of Human Rights. This is primarily because of its activities in Ireland."

### Censorship of Sinn Fein statements

Commenting on a ban imposed in Ireland against broadcasting any Sinn Fein statements in the media, McAuley stated, "Censorship denies people outside of the North access to information. They get a blinkered picture of what is happening here, and it

The British government has thus far insisted on Sinn Fein's exclusion from talks on the grounds that they refuse to condemn violent actions by the IRA, which has been fighting to end British rule and unite Northern Ireland with the republic of Ireland to the South.

### 'The British are going to talk'

In an interview in the September 27 *Independent* Martin McGuinness, a leader of Sinn Fein said, "Everybody you meet says it's quite obvious that the British are going to talk. The important thing is that important elements to the conflict are coming to a position where they now accept that there has to be inclusive dialogue. The logical next step in the whole process is for a meeting to take place."

In a telephone interview, Father Des Wilson of the Springhill Community Center in West Belfast said, "I'm delighted about the talks because people who are representatives should be talking to one another. But I'm outraged at the arrogance

of the British government, that they think they should be deciding who we should talk to in our own communities."

The rightist Ulster Defence Association and the Rev. Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, both said that the talks represent the existence of a "pan-nationalist front." Paisley accused the government of negotiating with the IRA by proxy.

These forces are staunchly opposed to any steps towards uniting Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic.

Paramilitary groups backing the continued British occupation have stepped up their attacks in response to these latest developments. In the course of one week, five Catholics were killed. One group, the Ulster Volunteer Force, also claimed responsibility for a bomb that caused damage to Sinn Fein offices.

Shellia Kennedy is a member of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union in Manchester, England.



Sinn Fein press officer Richard McAuley (left) with Militant reporter Shellia Kennedy.

therefore makes it more difficult for them to come to a rational balanced view of what this conflict is about and how they can help to resolve it."

When asked about escalating violence in Northern Ireland, McAuley said, "What the loyalists are attempting to do is protect their interests in a number of ways. Violence is one of the ways they attempt to do that, in much the same way as white settlers in South Africa and Zimbabwe, and the Algerian French settlers have done in other colonial contexts."

"Our view is that any resolution of this conflict has to be built around the right of the Irish people to self-determination," he continued. "By tackling Britain's presence and involvement in this part of Ireland, and breaking that link, we believe we can then begin to build bridges to the Unionist community, which currently do not exist and have never existed." Unionists support the division of Ireland and maintaining Northern Ireland as part of the "United Kingdom."

### Fight against discrimination

The struggle to end discriminatory treatment of the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland remains an important political question. "The fight against discrimination has been an ongoing one since the civil rights campaign in the mid-60s," commented McAuley. "The British would have us believe that discrimination is no longer a problem. They argue they have introduced effective legislation which is dealing with discrimination."

"On the other hand," he continued, "an internal report produced by the British minister responsible for the economy in September of 1992 predicted that there would be no change in the level of discrimination for at least another 10 years."

"This effectively means that 30 years after the British government took direct con-

trol of the North's economy and direct control of the North politically, there will still have been no change in the levels of discrimination against nationalists. I think that says a lot about British government policy, and who they see as their allies," McAuley stated.

In Ireland — both North and South — abortion rights are still effectively prohibited under a 19th century offense against the person act. The British Parliament in 1967 passed an amendment to this law making abortion legal in certain circumstances, but specifically excluded the North of Ireland from its provisions.

"The issue of abortion as a political issue largely surfaced in the 26 counties [of the south of Ireland] rather than in the North," the Irish activist said. "There hasn't really been, for whatever reason, any campaign to have the British 1967 act extended to the North."

"Sinn Fein has taken the view that women have the right to have access to information on issues that affect them, but we do not support abortion as a means of birth control. We accept it is necessary under certain conditions," he said.

McAuley pointed out that many people in Northern Ireland see a lot of similarities between their struggle and those currently unfolding in South Africa.

"When Nelson Mandela was released and made his world tour," the Sinn Fein leader said, "the most controversial part of that tour was when he came to Ireland and said that the British government should talk to the IRA."

"People here take an interest in what goes on in South Africa," he continued. "They identify in the nationalist areas here very much with the African National Congress and what they are attempting to achieve."

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PROGRESS Publishers



# Board denies Iowa unionist parole hearing

BY NORTON SANDLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "When I called the parole board today, I was told that Mark has been denied a parole hearing and a release this year," Kate Kaku explained. "Instead the board says they are requesting that Mark be transferred to the Iowa Medical and Classification prison at Oakdale for psychological evaluation. Based on that evaluation they say they will determine if and when Mark will be given a parole hearing. This is what they insist everyone convicted of a 'forcible felony' do before they are paroled."

Kaku, a Chicago steelworker and the wife of imprisoned union and political activist Mark Curtis, is a leader of his defense effort. She was informed of the parole board's decision here October 8. Two days earlier Kaku was part of a 16-person delegation of Curtis supporters who met with board members at their Des Moines offices to request that Curtis be released immediately.

"The board claims they need supportive information to determine if Mark can be a 'law-abiding citizen,'" said Kaku. "Mark should have been granted a hearing."

A new law went into effect in Iowa earlier this year that gives authorities the ability to deny prisoners a parole hearing. Under the previous law, prisoners serving a 25-year or less sentence were automatically given annual hearings.

Curtis was arrested on trumped-up rape and burglary charges in 1988 in the middle of a struggle at the Swift meat-packing plant in Des Moines, where he worked, in defense of 17 immigrant coworkers. These unionists from Mexico and El Salvador had been jailed following an immigration cop sweep of the plant.

## More difficult to justify imprisonment

Curtis is currently incarcerated at the John Bennett Correctional Facility, a medium-security prison in Fort Madison, Iowa. He completed the required sentence on the attempted rape charge in June. He is being held in prison now on a burglary charge tacked on several weeks after his arrest for "illegally" entering the house where the sexual assault allegedly took place. On October 6, attorney William Kutmus filed a federal court appeal of Curtis's conviction.

"I should have been granted an immediate hearing," Mark Curtis said in an interview. "We are seeing the results of the board's new



Mark Curtis and his wife Kate Kaku in 1988, prior to the unfair trial where the political activist was found guilty of frame-up charges of sexual assault and burglary. Scar under Curtis's left eye from police beating was still visible. Cops, who were later found guilty of beating Curtis in jail, called him a "Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds" while striking him.

policy. Defenders of democratic rights need to insist that prisoners be allowed to argue themselves in front of the board," Curtis said. "In my case I have completed the sentence for the frame-up rape charge and have consistently received top prison ratings for work and conduct. I have a strong parole plan including at least two job offers in the Chicago area and international support. I should have been paroled now as hundreds in this country and around the world have demanded."

"It is becoming more difficult for Iowa officials to justify holding me behind bars," Curtis continued. "The terrain has shifted for now. The authorities earlier insinuated that I complete their Sexual Offenders Treatment Program, where you are supposed to admit guilt to the crime you are accused of. They now insist that I go through programs to determine whether I am fit to be released from prison or claim I haven't served enough time yet."

"All Iowa prisoners convicted of so-called 'forced felonies' are given a review by Oakdale psychological counselors or are actually sent to Oakdale during their prison terms," Curtis noted. "An Oakdale evaluation is a requirement for movement to a minimum-security prison or for parole, though nothing is automatic as far as either is concerned."

## Meeting with the board

Parole board members Walter Saur and Robert Jackson met with Kaku and 15 Iowa supporters of Curtis October 6. The delegation included Mark Curtis Defense Committee officers John Studer and Hazel Zimmerman as well as Max Exner, a retired music professor from Ames; Jake Edwards, a United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) officer from Cherokee; Otis McGowan, a trade unionist and NAACP activist from Cedar Rapids; Harold Dunkleberger, a farmer driven off his land; and Brian Haukeness, a member of United Auto Workers Local 270 in Des Moines. Also participating were Edna Griffin, Nellie Berry, and Julia Terrell, who have been active in defense efforts since the beginning of the frame-up.

Studer presented nearly 100 parole letters obtained in the first half of October to the board. Another 250 letters had been delivered in September. Studer also detailed Curtis's record in prison; the fact that he had completed the sentence on the rape charge; the depth of support for his release in Iowa and elsewhere; and urged the board to grant him parole. Kaku reviewed Curtis's parole plan.

Saur's only comment in response to the two brief presentations was to say that Studer was incorrect in saying that the average

amount of time served by Iowa prisoners with 25-year sentences is five years. "It is closer to seven years," Saur stated.

McGowan, who has worked at the Quaker Oats plant in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for 27 years, took a day off work to come to the meeting with the board. "I wanted to support Mark. He was fighting for workers who don't have a voice when he was arrested. He should be given his freedom now."

Edwards is a veteran of the struggles of packinghouse workers since the early 1980s. He works at the Wilson packing plant in Cherokee and is second vice-president of UFCW Local 179. "As a unionist and occasional union organizer, it is important to me that Mark be treated fairly," he said. "He is a union brother and was framed by the police because of his union and political activity."

"I can't stand seeing anyone in prison when they have been set up," UAW member Haukeness stated. "You can tell that by the way they refuse his parole."

In 1991 Dunkleberger lost his farm, which had been in his family since just after the Civil War. "Many supporters of Mark have attended meetings and stood by me in my fight with the farm credit people," he said. "They have been trying to put me in the hard bar motel for several years. With the experiences I've had I am supportive of Mark's struggle."

Exner said he had been following Mark's fight from its inception through newspaper accounts. "The more I learned about it, the more it smelled. There are people in the world incapable of rape. I am one of them," Exner said, "and I believe Mark is one of them. The nature of his trial was so shoddy I just got madder and madder."

## Consolidate new support

Studer explained the defense committee is ending its very successful Parole Now! Campaign, which resulted in scores of letters being delivered to the board. "We should notify everyone who sent letters about the board's decision. Their efforts are making a difference. Supporters in every area will want to consolidate the new support that has been registered in the campaign by encouraging many who sent letters to become endorsers of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and to make financial contributions to the ongoing defense effort."

"Over the next few months we should take Mark's case and his fight for justice to fighters involved in winning solidarity for the coal miners, to youth and unionists involved in defense of the Cuban revolution, and those in the struggle to defend abortion rights."

"This is not the time to let up," Studer emphasized. "We had far more letters from union members this time around than in earlier drives. By carrying out patient, consistent work over the next couple of months, we will be in the best position to launch the next stage of the parole fight early next year," he stated.

For more information write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. Tel (515) 246-1695.

## Prisoner in Ireland solidarizes with Curtis

Letter by Brendan Donaghy, an Irish independence fighter, incarcerated in Long Kesh Prison, Northern Ireland.

\* \* \*

I first came across the name of Mark Curtis in late 1988 in the *Militant*. I became more interested in his case as the weeks, months, and years passed. I have read many articles about his life, work, the struggle for workers, and the racial abuse he received from the police for helping his coworker in the paper; and about the many people from parts of the world who came to his defense to show this was a frame-up. When I hear these words I sit up and take notice. As a political prisoner myself I know what it's like to be behind bars for certain political beliefs and what it means to Irish people, most notably the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four.

I see the photograph of Mark, with two black eyes and the cuts on his face, and see images of neighbors of mine who are being tortured in their holding cells by the British in my country where they have no right to be. I read of Mark's trial and how evidence was not allowed to be used (including forensic) that would have proved his innocence. This brought me back to the many so-called trials in my own country in which a judge sits on his own (no juries) and listens to the lies and false evidence of the British soldiers against Irish men and women. They send innocent people to many years in jail, some because they dared to speak out and fight against the occupation of part of their country.

I have read that the parole board set-up is to change, no more annual hearings where the prisoner in person can put his

case. Now this is at the whim of the prison authorities.

As a life prisoner, I can't put my case in front of a parole board in person. The prison authorities do that, with all their bias and anti-republican views. We, the republican prisoners, have campaigned for a change on this. Many sections of Irish society support us in this request.

But these are British laws and they're used against the Irish people who don't want them here. As your country got rid of the British colonial yoke many years ago and forged its independence, it is sad for me to read that you imprison men who differ in their political thinking and activities from those at the top of society. Free thinking can't be imprisoned. Ideas can't be trampled on and screwed up by the system to make an innocent man guilty and make him face such charges as sexual assault. This is an insult to Mark, to the many working people he so selflessly helped, and to the many women who do suffer rape and sexual assaults.

I write not only to show my solidarity with a fellow political prisoner but to support his request for an early parole. Mark Curtis is not only an innocent man but one who has had a great injustice done to him by a system which should be upholding the rights of working men and women.

I hope the parole board members see it in their hearts to release Mark, then I'll have some faith and respect in the American system.

P.S. This letter is also being sent to the Iowa State Board of Parole. Anyway, good luck with the campaign. A victory for one is a victory for all.

## U.S. poverty rate leaps upward

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The number of people classified by the U.S. government as living in poverty last year rose for the third year in a row to 36.9 million, according to the Census Bureau's annual report. At the same time those with the most wealth got even richer.

"The number of poor has increased 5.4 million since 1989," stated Census Bureau representative Daniel Weinberg at a recent news conference. At 14.5 percent of the population, the number of people living in poverty in the United States is greater today than any time since 1962.

According to the government, a family of three is classified as poor if its income is less than \$11,186. For a single person the figure is \$7,143.

One in four children under six years old and 21.9 percent of those under 18 live in poverty. Nearly half of children who are Black and under 18 are poor.

The poverty level overall for Blacks in

the United States is 33 percent and for Hispanics 29.3 percent.

According to Clifford Johnson, policy director of the Children's Defense Fund, the new data shows that "poor children are more likely to suffer extreme poverty than ever before."

Last year, 6.8 million children or 47 percent of all children classified as poor lived in households where incomes were less than half of the official poverty level.

Among people 16 years and older categorized as poor, 40 percent worked at least part-time in 1992, and 9.2 percent had full-time jobs throughout the year. Only 47.2 percent of poor people were covered by Medicaid, the health program for low-income people.

Meanwhile the income inequalities that accelerated in the early 1980s continued into 1992. The richest 20 percent of households accounted for 46.9 percent of the nation's income, while the poorest one-fifth accounted for just 3.8 percent.



# Somalia war underscores importance of \$75,000 fund

BY SARA LOBMAN

For 65 years, the *Militant* has been an indispensable tool for any thinking young person or worker who is fed up with the wars, unemployment, and hunger that are a "natural" part of capitalism.

This week's column — on the *Militant's* response to the December 1992 invasion of Somalia by U.S. troops and the ongoing U.S. and UN occupation of that country — highlights the role the paper has played in explaining a current issue in world politics.

From the beginning, the *Militant* offered a perspective that is different than that of virtually every other newspaper in the world. Our starting point is a deep confidence that the toilers of Somalia are capable of fighting to defend and advance their own interests and, together with their brothers and sisters from around the world, build a new society that places human needs before profits.

The *Militant* said that the U.S. intervention in Somalia had nothing to do with feeding starving people. The December 18, 1992, issue of the paper, published just days before the first U.S. troops landed in Mogadishu, explained that the U.S. rulers hope to use the military show of force to "safeguard strategic U.S. interests in eastern Africa and set a precedent for future military intervention in other parts of the world."

The example of United Nations intervention in the Congo (now Zaire) in the 1960s provides a good example of the murderous role that UN and U.S. troops can play, all the while yelling about "humanitarianism." An article in the January 8,

1993, *Militant* titled "How UN intervention in 1960s thwarted Congo's popular independence movement" reprinted excerpts of speeches given at that time by three revolutionary leaders — Fidel Castro, Malcolm X, and Che Guevara. The article helped *Militant* readers understand the real goals of the rulers' intervention in Somalia.

## Food is not the issue

Hunger, the January 22 issue explained, is not a natural crisis, it is a product of the capitalist economic system. The solution in Somalia, the *Militant* said, "is not imperialist 'aid.' The only way forward is the political mobilization of the workers and peasants, whose interests lie in creating a government that can break with imperialist domination and begin to advance society."

But the *Militant* didn't leave its readers to imagine such a government. An article at the end of January, "What is road for Somali working people? Lessons from Thomas Sankara, leader of Burkina Faso revolution of 1983-1987," pointed to the gains that the workers and peasants in that west African country made in combating hunger and beginning the fight for food self-sufficiency.

## 'Keep publishing'

The 1993 *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* Fund, which opens as the U.S. rulers are accelerating their attacks on Somalia, received our first mail-in contribution this week from a reader in Lancaster, Ohio. "Sir, Enclosed you will find two dollars," this *Militant* supporter wrote. "This is to help the

*Militant* keep publishing. I am sorry it can't be more. Thanking you in advance."

Meanwhile, champions of the paper around the country are gearing up for the drive. In Morgantown, West Virginia, supporters have drawn up a list of almost 30 people they plan to ask for contributions to the fund. Three thousand dollars was pledged at a public meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, on October 9. The featured speaker was *Militant* managing editor Argiris Malapanis, who spoke about his recent trip to Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank.

The international campaign to win new readers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New Internationalist* should help get the fund drive off to a good start. Several supporters report that they have been making calls to encourage *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* readers to renew their subscriptions. Many of these readers — both those who do renew and those who don't — will make a contribution to the fund.

A note to supporters: the goals listed on the chart at the right are initial proposals by the *Militant*. Most supporters are still discussing these targets. Adopted goals will be listed next week.

A final note: the best way to make sure that you can refer back to the many valuable articles on Somalia and many other topics that appeared in the *Militant* in 1992 and 1993 is to put in your order for a bound volume today. The *Militant* is offering a \$15 discount off the \$75 cover price on prepaid orders for the 1993 volume. Orders will be shipped early in 1994.

**MILITANT**  
PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL  
**1993 FUND**  
**GOAL \$75,000**

CITY	PROPOSED GOAL	
Albany	\$ 200	67,500
Atlanta	2,750	
Baltimore	2,000	
Birmingham	2,000	
Boston	3,000	60,000
Brooklyn	4,000	
Chicago	5,000	
Cincinnati	300	
Cleveland	2,750	52,500
Des Moines	2,000	
Detroit	3,500	
Greensboro	2,000	
Houston	3,500	45,000
Los Angeles	6,500	
Miami	2,000	
Morgantown	1,250	37,500
New Haven	500	
New York	4,000	
Newark	4,000	
Philadelphia	3,800	30,000
Pittsburgh	2,000	
Salt Lake City	2,500	
San Francisco	6,500	
Seattle	2,500	22,500
St. Louis	3,425	
Twin Cities	4,500	
Washington	2,400	15,000

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# Palestinian students fight repression, funding cuts

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY, West Bank — The shell of the student activities building contrasts sharply with the otherwise modern campus on a bare mountaintop north of Ramallah. Through the empty ground floor, the view is breathtaking across the valleys filled with olive groves.

All construction on the building, which is only one-third finished, was frozen last November in a stark reminder of the crisis facing Palestinian universities.

"The Gulf War was a turning point," said Adli Dana, a student here who also works at the campus public relations office. Funding from the Association of Arab Universities, governments, and companies in Arab countries came to a halt in 1991 after the U.S.-led war against Iraq. The student activities center was being built with funds from the government of Saudi Arabia, channeled through the Amman, Jordan-based Council for Higher Education that directs Palestinian universities in the West Bank and Gaza.

Following the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Iraqi president Saddam Hussein said in a demagogic announcement that he would withdraw his troops from the Gulf emirate if Palestinian demands for self-determination were met. Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yassir Arafat endorsed this reactionary, after-the-fact linkage, which most capitalist Arab regimes, as well as Tel Aviv and Washington, used to inflict great harm on the Palestinian struggle for national rights.

"The effects of the financial crisis include a freeze on hiring and on the purchase of equipment and books," said Dana.

The lack of funds has sparked a confrontation between students and the administration. University officials now demand that all 2,500 students pay 100 percent of tuition.

"But the students refuse," said Jamal Barguti, an activist in the Student Council, the main student organization on campus.



Student activist Jamal Barguti (seated). More than 70 Bir Zeit students are held in Israeli jails. Nine have been deported from the West Bank.

Tuition has tripled since the university reopened in May 1992.

Bir Zeit, like all other universities in the West Bank and Gaza, was closed by the Israeli authorities in 1988, shortly after the explosion of the *intifada*, the rebellion by Palestinians against Israeli occupation. With a reputation as one of the hottest centers of political activity, Bir Zeit was the last university that was allowed to reopen.

Barguti said that before the closure students would pay only 30 percent of tuition. Those who were jailed by military authorities for more than a year because of *intifada*-related activities would get another discount of 60 percent. "But 90 percent of

the student body was in that category," he said. "All these scholarships have now been canceled."

The Student Council has proposed a sliding scale for tuition according to family income. "The administration doesn't accept this classification yet," the Student Council activist said, "so the struggle is on."

Barguti and other students explained in interviews September 25 that their other major campaign is a fight to press Tel Aviv to release more than 70 students who are still being held in Israeli jails. Another 9 students have been deported from the occupied territories, 5 of them as part of 415

Palestinians expelled by Tel Aviv to Lebanon last December. "Bring the deportees home!" reads a banner in the student center.

Two weeks later, several of these students took part in a 3,000-strong march on the West Bank Jenid jail in Nablus to demand the release of all Palestinian political prisoners. The October 7 protest was organized by the PLO and an Israeli peace group.

Opinions were divided among student activists on the significance of the recent Israeli-PLO accord. "We are with the PLO totally on this agreement," said Barguti. "We need to live in peace and establish our state. We hope Israel will release our prisoners and stop shooting our people."

"The PLO doesn't represent all Palestinians," said Abdel, another student who is a supporter of Hamas, a group that opposes the accord. "Nothing has changed since the agreement was signed."

While confiscation of books and periodicals sent to university libraries, refused or delayed permission for construction of new campus buildings, and widespread arrests of students and faculty in the eight Palestinian universities has considerably slowed down since their reopening, other problems remain.

A student or professor wishing to travel from home to his or her university in another part of the West Bank must obtain a special permit from occupying authorities and is subject to delay at a series of roadblocks along the way.

On the way back to Jerusalem, I got a small taste of the harassment students, workers, and faculty at Bir Zeit continue to go through every day. Israeli soldiers had left their posts at the permanent checkpoint one mile off the campus. So they closed the road and created a mile-long traffic jam for an hour — until they decided to come back from their cigarette break.

"It's Israel's gift to us for Yom Kippur," commented my driver.



# INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO WIN NEW READERS

DRIVE GOALS: 3,000 MILITANT ■ 700 PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL ■ 1,200 NEW INTERNATIONAL

## All out for second target week of sales called for Oct. 23-30

BY NAOMI CRAINE

"In one week we nearly doubled what we had done in the previous five," said Don Mackle from Cleveland. He was referring to the successful effort by distributors in that area during the October 2-9 target week aimed at getting the international socialist circulation campaign back on schedule.

Salt Lake City, Utah, leaped from 29 percent of their goal to 65 percent, selling 25 *Militant* subscriptions over the past week.

In many cities around the world, supporters of the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial* took a leap forward in their efforts to win 3,700 new subscribers. While the 10-week campaign is still behind schedule, many more subscriptions came into the business office this past week. This puts supporters of the socialist press in a good position to move forward and complete the drive in full and on time.

To build on this momentum, the *Militant* is calling a second target week for October 23-30 — the next to last week of the circulation drive.

Sales of *New International* picked up steam last week as well. Taking advantage of the newly published first issue of *Ny International* in Swedish, supporters in Stockholm have already sold 68 percent of their goal.

Ron Richards called from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to raise his *New International* goal. During the target week seven people bought copies of the Spanish-language edition of the magazine at political meetings held on the University of Puerto Rico campus.

"We're back in the race on *New Internationals*," wrote Craig Honts from Los Angeles. During the target week supporters there sold 20 copies of the magazine, along with 28 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 8 to *Perspectiva Mundial*. Honts

described a sales table at one university in the area that featured a sign opposing Washington's war in Somalia. There were "lots of discussions about the war buzzing



Bob Braxton, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Atlanta, selling the *Militant* at abortion rights demonstration October 3.

around the table all day. Five *Militant* subs and 25 single issues of the paper were sold" there.

Supporters in Manchester, England, signed up 20 *Militant* readers in the course of the week. "We were so pleased with the new impetus this has given the drive that we agreed to raise our subscription goal by 10," wrote Cliff Williams. Many of these subscriptions were bought by students at several universities in the area. There was "a lot of discussion on the fight against fascism and racism following the victory of the [rightist] British National Party candidate in a local election," reported Williams.

The success on campus encouraged *Militant* readers who are members of industrial unions in Manchester to introduce coworkers to the socialist press. Five members

of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union signed up for subscriptions, and one also picked up a copy of *New International* no. 7, featuring "The Opening Guns of World War

III: Washington's Assault on Iraq."

Readers from Vancouver got a boost in the target week through a special two-day team to Victoria, British Columbia. They sold 11 subscriptions to students there and at a demonstration protesting the mass arrests of activists opposed to clear-cut logging in Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island. Following that trip, *Militant* supporters from Vancouver met up with others from Seattle to field teams to two campuses in Washington state.

Supporters of the socialist press in Philadelphia proved that selling subscriptions and single issues go hand in hand. During their target week efforts they sold 23 *Militant* subscriptions and 114 single issues, as well as five *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions and eight copies of *New International*.

## WHERE WE STAND

SOLD: 49% 1,458

SHOULD BE: 60% 1,800

END OF WEEK SIX

	The MILITANT		PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL		NEW INTERNATIONAL		
	SOLD / GOAL		SOLD / GOAL		SOLD / GOAL		
UNITED STATES							
Houston	50	60	83%	7	15	5	15
Cincinnati*	10	14	71%	0	2	0	3
Philadelphia*	71	100	71%	14	25	13	20
Cleveland	50	75	67%	8	5	0	25
Salt Lake City, UT	55	85	65%	4	15	6	35
Pittsburgh	53	85	62%	4	8	6	20
Miami*	74	120	62%	24	50	37	60
San Francisco	72	120	60%	15	35	0	70
St. Louis	43	75	57%	1	8	0	30
Los Angeles*	107	190	56%	46	95	26	95
Seattle*	41	75	55%	4	15	5	25
Boston	62	115	54%	14	30	30	45
Detroit	43	85	51%	3	10	9	30
Morgantown, WV	31	65	48%	2	3	1	15
Greensboro, NC	34	75	45%	1	10	5	20
Chicago	55	130	42%	12	30	6	35
Denver	4	10	40%	0	2		5
Des Moines, IA	36	90	40%	11	40	8	40
Portland, OR	6	15	40%	2	2	2	10
Newark, NJ	48	130	37%	11	40	10	70
Twin Cities, MN	40	110	36%	2	18	6	30
Birmingham, AL	27	75	36%	0	10	0	20
Washington, DC	26	75	35%	9	15	8	20
New Haven, CT	5	15	33%	1	3	0	10
Atlanta	25	80	31%	5	10	3	20
Baltimore	20	70	29%	4	10	0	20
Brooklyn, NY	36	130	28%	12	40	7	50
New York	35	135	26%	7	45	1	55
U.S. Total	1,159	2,404	48%	223	594	194	893
AUSTRALIA							
	12	35	34%	0	10	7	20
BELGIUM							
	0	5	0%	0	4	0	10
BRITAIN							
London	41	65	63%	2	5	18	25
Manchester*	29	50	58%	0	1	10	20
Sheffield	15	35	43%	0	3	0	15
Britain Total	85	150	57%	2	9	28	60
CANADA							
Vancouver	33	70	47%	2	10	10	30
Montreal	25	70	36%	5	12	8	40
Toronto	28	85	33%	4	15	10	45
Canada Total	86	225	38%	11	37	28	115
FRANCE*							
	5	10	50%	1	3	9	15
GERMANY							
	1	—	0%	0	—	0	—
GREECE							
	7	9	78%	1	1	5	5
ICELAND							
	4	10	40%	0	1	0	3
NEW ZEALAND							
Auckland	53	65	82%	6	6	6	15
Christchurch	22	35	63%	0	1	2	5
New Zealand Total	75	100	75%	6	7	8	20
PUERTO RICO*							
	0	2	0%	4	7	7	12
SWEDEN							
	24	60	40%	15	20	34	50
TOTAL							
	1,458	3,010	49%	263	693	320	1,198
SHOULD BE							
	1,800	3,000	60%	420	700	720	1,200

## IN THE UNIONS

	The MILITANT		PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL		NEW INTERNATIONAL		
	SOLD / GOAL		SOLD / GOAL		SOLD / GOAL		
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
ACTWU	18	32	56%	3	12	4	16
OCAW	35	75	47%	0	—	1	20
UTU	39	86	45%	2	2	0	27
USWA	38	85	45%	4	3	1	25
UMWA	23	60	38%	0	2	0	10
IAM	34	90	38%	3	—	7	20
UAW*	52	150	35%	4	10	0	25
UFCW	19	55	35%	4	38	1	22
ILGWU	5	20	25%	10	25	3	15
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>							
AMEU	2	3	67%	0	—	0	1
FPU	2	3	67%	0	—	1	1
NUW	0	2	0%	0	—	0	1
<b>Australia Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>BRITAIN</b>							
RMT	11	12	92%	0	—	0	6
TGWU	5	7	71%	0	—	0	3
AEEU	2	3	67%	0	—	0	6
<b>Britain Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>CANADA</b>							
IAM	4	6	67%	0	—	1	2
ACTWU	1	2	50%	0	—	0	1
CAW	4	9	44%	0	1	0	4
USWA	1	13	8%	0	2	1	2
<b>Canada Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>							
MWU	1	2	50%	0	—	0	—
EU	3	7	43%	0	—	0	2
UFBGWU	2	8	25%	0	—	1	1
<b>New Zealand Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>							
Metal workers	1	5	20%	0	—	1	2
Food workers	0	3	0%	0	—	4	5
Transport workers	0	2	0%	0	—	0	2
<b>Sweden Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>*raised goal</i>							

\*raised goal

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AMEU — Automotive, Metal and Engineering Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; EU — Engineers Union; FPU — Food Preservers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; NUM — National Union of Mineworkers; NUW — National Union of Workers; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU — Transport and General Workers Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFBGWU — United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union

## Atlanta socialists win ballot victory

BY SUSAN LaMONT

ATLANTA — Supporters of Bob Braxton, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor here, won a smashing victory October 8 when Atlanta and Fulton County authorities threw in the towel and gave up their efforts to keep him off the ballot.

The reversal of city and county authorities' attempts to disqualify Braxton marks the first time in more than a decade that the SWP will have a candidate on the ballot in Georgia for a major office.

The victory followed an intense, nine-day fight that began September 29 when Olivia Parks Woods, clerk of the Atlanta City Council, informed Braxton that he lacked sufficient "valid" signatures to qualify for ballot status. Two weeks earlier, Braxton's supporters had filed over 7,500 signatures, more than twice the 3,587 requirement. Braxton, who works at Ford Motor Co. and is a member of United Auto Workers Local 882, was informed nevertheless that he was 540 signatures short of the number needed.

With the aid of attorney John Sweet, the socialist campaign won agreement to begin a review of the petitions. At the same time, Braxton and his supporters held a news conference and picket line at city hall to protest the city's attempt to exclude him from the ballot. The protests drew considerable press coverage.

After an initial examination of some of the petitions, it became

clear to the socialist campaigners that a considerable number of valid signatures had in fact been overlooked. The Fulton County Department of Elections and Registration grudgingly began a total review of all the petitions. Most of the city of Atlanta is in Fulton County, which keeps the voter registration records.

A team of Braxton's supporters was in the office every day, from early morning on, poring over the petitions. Some volunteers took days off work to help on the review; many others found ways to squeeze a few hours in to come down and look for the needed signatures. At the same time, election department employees reviewed the petitions two and sometimes three times, looking for more signatures. After a few days, the authorities knew that socialist campaign supporters were not going to go away. Efforts to cut short the review by claiming that the deadline for printing the ballots was too near were headed off, with the help of Sweet and pressure from many people who protested the city's undemocratic move.

The auto worker's fight continued to be covered in the press. Braxton and his campaign supporters raised the issue of his unjust disqualification at several campaign appearances in the city. A protest petition was also circulated.

Finally, on the afternoon of October 8, it became clear that enough signatures were going to be found,

much to the relief of elections department employees. Several of them had worked hard to help find the needed signatures and quietly let campaign volunteers know that they hoped the socialist candidate would get on the ballot.

At 5:00 p.m. Woods, apologizing profusely, handed campaign staffers a letter informing Braxton he was qualified to appear on the November ballot.

"This is a real victory for working people throughout the city," said Braxton, "especially for the 7,500 people who signed our petition and thought a socialist candidate, a working-class candidate, had a right to be on the ballot. This is also a victory for other supporters of democratic rights, who were outraged at what the city and county tried to do to us," the auto worker continued. "That means working people will have a better chance to hear a socialist alternative to the big-business candidates and to have a wider discussion of the real issues confronting us, from the deepening U.S. war against the people of Somalia to the employers' war against working people here at home."

Susan LaMont is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 365 at Arrow Shirt in Austell, Georgia. She is a chairperson for the Georgia Socialist Workers 1993 Campaign.



# 'Forces of racism are on the retreat'

## Address of ANC president Nelson Mandela to NAACP convention in Indianapolis

The following is the speech that African National Congress president (ANC) Nelson Mandela delivered to 12,000 people July 12 at the opening of the convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mandela addressed the gathering, which took place in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 10-15, as part of a tour of the United States. The speech as well as the photographs are included in the new Pathfinder book *Nelson Mandela Speaks*, scheduled for release November 1. Subheadings are by the Militant.

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Chairperson; distinguished delegates; brothers and sisters:

To attend a convention of the NAACP is for us a homecoming. We are here today not as guests but as comrades-in-arms. We stand here not as people from another land but as part of you, part of the great family of black people that is to be found in many parts of the world.

We have come as a component part of the historic coalition of organizations, to which

“It was timely and appropriate that Ben Chavis set the task of strengthening ties between ANC, NAACP...”

both the NAACP and the ANC belong, that has fought for the emancipation of black people everywhere. The fact that we are

together at this convention is an affirmation of the bonds of solidarity and common purpose that have united our people even before our two organizations were formed.

I am very glad that I have at last been able to be with you in person, to thank you for the honor you bestowed on us when you linked us to a real hero by awarding me the W. E. B. Du Bois Medal in 1986. We heard



Mandela addressing rally in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in 1992. “We must succeed... in the interest of all who value freedom and human dignity,” he told NAACP convention.

the powerful message you sent by this act within the prison walls where we were held and within the larger prison that was apartheid South Africa.

A great tribute is due to that outstanding giant of our common struggle for emancipa-

tion, W. E. B. Du Bois, who, as early as 1900 at the Races Conference in London, raised the issue of the oppression and exploitation of the black people of South Africa.

We all know the famous text contained in his classic work, *The Souls of Black Folk*, where he writes that: “The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color-line — the relation of the darker to the

lighter races of men in Asia and Africa, in America and in the islands of the sea.”

Because Du Bois and his peers understood that the freedom of the black people was indivisible, the issue of the liquidation of the system of white minority rule in South Africa has been on the agenda of the NAACP since its foundation in 1909.

Time does not allow for a recollection of the inspiring struggle that your organization has waged for the emancipation of your brothers and sisters in South Africa, which includes the denunciation of the South African Act of Union of 1909; opposition to the racist ideas of Jan Smuts, who became a friend of U.S. president Wilson; your granting of a platform to one of our former secretaries general, Sol Plaatje, who addressed an NAACP convention in Detroit in the 1920s; drought relief in the Eastern Cape in the '40s; your cooperation with the ANC during the various Pan-African congresses; and the work that W. E. B. Du Bois and Paul Robeson did, after 1948, to mobilize opposition to the system of apartheid.

Our own Campaign for the Defiance of Unjust Laws of 1952 later found an echo in your own defiance of unjust laws and practices in this country as you launched the historic civil rights struggle to address the question of the freedom and human dignity of the black folk of the United States of America.

What a great tribute it was both to the ordinary people who have found a home in this organization and to the association itself that it was a simple activist of the NAACP, Rosa Parks, who by her single act of defiance became the David that challenged Goliath, thus setting in train your unforgettable mass offensive for civil rights.

### Strengthen ties between NAACP, ANC

When Thurgood Marshall, acting for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, convinced your Supreme Court, in the famous *Brown v. Board of Education* case, to determine that “in the field of public education, the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place,” he struck a mighty blow against the system of apartheid in South Africa which, as Du Bois and Robeson had clearly seen, was but a mere extension of the Jim Crow laws which imposed a new slavery on the black people of this country.

With so much that binds us, which says very clearly that we have a common destiny, it was therefore both timely and most appropriate that your executive director, Dr. Ben Chavis, Jr., should have set himself the task of working further to strengthen the ties between the NAACP and the ANC.

We believe that this is right! We believe that it must be done!

Our common struggle for the termination of the apartheid crime against humanity and the transformation of South Africa into a united, democratic, nonracial, and nonsexist country has reached a decisive point.

The forces of racism in South Africa are on the retreat. The countdown to the democratic transfer of power to the people has begun. The first-ever general election in our country conducted on the basis of one person, one vote, will be held on April 27, 1994.

The historic challenge facing us all is to ensure that as a result of those elections, democracy wins, nonracism emerges triumphant, nonsexism becomes the victor, and the people take power into their hands.

One of the major tasks we face in the struggle to attain these goals, is to ensure that the forthcoming elections are free and fair.

The results they produce must be a genuine and correct reflection of the feelings and aspirations of the people of our country. They must inspire such confidence that their outcome is accepted by both South Africans and the rest of the world as legitimate.

To address this situation, both of us must make certain that the cross-fertilization which has characterized the relations between our two peoples and organizations must once more express itself in concrete action.

In *The Souls of Black Folk*, Dr. Du Bois called on his black contemporaries to “value the privileges and duty of voting.”

Ninety years later, this is the message we must convey to 23 million of your black brothers and sisters.

Strange as it might seem, given that we are approaching the end of the second millennium, it is only next year that these millions will have the right and possibility to vote. It is only now that we can participate in peaceful processes to determine our own destiny and to decide the future of our country.

### Decisive victory over forces of racism

Late as it may be, this represents a decisive victory over the forces of racism. That victory has put new tasks on our common agenda.

I refer, in particular, to the work we have to do in South Africa concerning voter education, voter identification, and voter mobilization.

As part of the process of the empowerment of the black people of this country, you have been ahead of us in dealing with the same questions. What we now need is your experience. What we need is your input to ensure that we organize those who are now voteless to exercise their democratic and inalienable right.

We need to ensure that these masses, millions of whom are illiterate, do not spoil their ballot papers, that they do not vote for any party by mistake, that they actually go

“The countdown to democratic transfer of power has begun...”

to the polling stations on voting day, and that they understand fully the liberating effect for themselves of a secret ballot.

All of this is going to need substantial financial resources to enable us to carry out our work effectively. We appeal to you to join the campaign to generate these resources, understanding, as you do, that the victory we must obtain in South Africa is one that must address the concerns and aspirations of all oppressed people everywhere.

### Violent resistance to democratic change

Let me also say something briefly about the so-called black-on-black violence in our country. We would like to make this matter very clear — that what we are confronted with here is a problem of violent resistance to democratic change, and not a situation of ethnic conflicts that are supposedly inherent in African societies.

South Africa is not Bosnia-Herzegovina. Neither is it Somalia or Beirut.

Behind the political violence in the coun-

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try stand forces that are unwilling to lose the privileged positions given to them by the apartheid system and do not want us to create a climate favorable to free political activity and conducive to the holding of free and fair elections.

It is these thuggish forces that invaded the seat of the negotiations at the World Trade Center outside Johannesburg a short while ago, intent on halting the negotiations through the use of brute force.

It is they who carried out the dastardly murder of one of our outstanding leaders, Chris Hani, hoping that they can terrorize the people into submission.

As has happened in other countries, there are also black people who derive some benefit from the oppression of their own kith and kin and are therefore ready to kill to frustrate the process of change.

We want to assure you, dear brothers and

“**Nobody has the right to block the long overdue transformation of our country . . .**”

sisters, that we shall not allow these conspirators to succeed, including those who are to be found within the structures of the incumbent government.

We will continue to talk to those among our people who are lost and misled. We will continue our efforts to bring into the peace process those whites who are driven to resistance by fear and prejudice.

But surely we have no alternative but to act and to oblige the government to act against those who resort to criminal activity to perpetuate a crime against humanity. Nobody has the right to block the long-overdue transformation of our country into a non-racial and nonsexist democracy! Nobody will

be allowed to do so!

In the near future, when the matter of the transitional arrangements leading to the holding of free and fair elections has been settled, we shall be calling on the peoples of the world to end the economic sanctions against South Africa.

Let me take advantage of this important occasion to thank you and all those in this country who have stood by us down the years by imposing and supporting sanctions against the Pretoria regime and its hated apartheid policies and practices.

#### Sanctions worked

Today we talk about democratic elections because those sanctions worked. The democratic movement of our country will be involved in the statutory transitional structures that will take us to democracy because your pressure worked.

The moment is approaching when we shall have to say that given the achievements to which I have referred, the time has come for us to address the burning question of feeding the millions in our country that are hungry, clothing the millions that are naked, accommodating the millions that are homeless, and creating jobs for the millions who are unemployed.

We will then need the investment, the enlightened management, the training capacity, the technology, and the expertise that are to be found in this country, within the public sector, in the private sector, and among our own, black people.

We are convinced that you understand this in the same way that we do, that the new South Africa must provide a better quality of life for all its people, especially the black masses, and that the success of the democratic transformation itself depends on the success we will achieve in addressing the material needs of the people.

We invite the business people to get ready to return. Those who have sanctions legislation on their statute books and those institutions which correctly remain bound by



Rally greeting Nelson Mandela in Wembezi, Natal Midlands, March 12, 1993.

ANC DIP/Nigel Dennis

sanctions resolutions should position themselves in such a way that they will be able to remove these restrictions as soon as the democratic movement of our country says that the time to end the sanctions has come.

I am informed that with us here today there are, among others, senior executives of Apple Computer. I want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the commitment they have made to help us address the issue of the appalling levels of education in our country, that with such technology as they dispose of, they can help us to take a leap into the twenty-first century in our efforts to educate our children, train our workers, start new enterprises, and provide a decent standard of living for our people.

I invite them and other U.S. corporations to take their place in the new South Africa, for the mutual benefit.

#### Historic challenge at both our doors

History has placed a challenge at both our doors and commands that, acting together for the common good, we must make an outstanding success of the historic processes of transforming South Africa into a democratic, prosperous, and peaceful country.

We must succeed in all this, in the fundamental interest of all who value freedom and human dignity. The poor, the dispossessed, the despised await our common victory with an expectation we dare not disappoint.

Furthermore, we leave it to you to be our own voice to the government of this country itself, to find the resources that would help us to achieve the political and socioeconomic objectives that are on our common agenda.

If the peoples of Eastern Europe deserved of help, so surely do those of Africa whose cause addresses the very core of the issue of the creation of a just and equitable human society.

Let me close with these words from an anthem of liberty:

“Stony the road we trod, bitter the  
chast’ning rod,  
“Felt in the days when hope unborn had  
died;  
“Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary  
feet,  
“Come to the place for which our fathers  
sighed?”  
When the countdown to democracy in  
South Africa is done, shall we not then:  
“Lift ev’ry voice and sing, till earth and  
heaven ring,  
“Ring with the harmonies of liberty.”

we who:

“have come, treading our path thro’ the  
blood of the slaughtered,  
“Out from the gloomy past, till now we  
stand at last,  
“Where the white gleam of our bright star  
is cast.”

Let us march on till victory is won!

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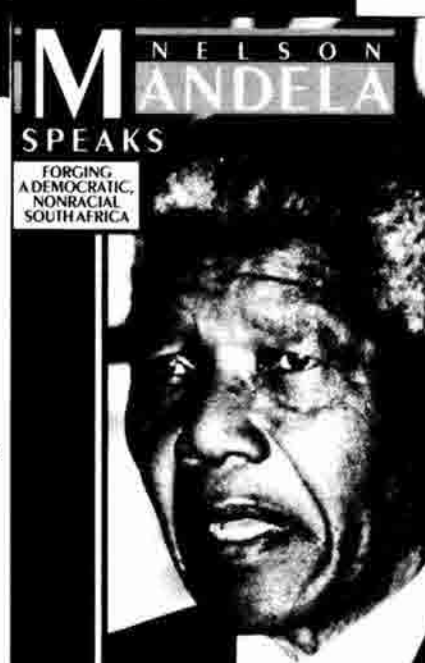
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# Miners fight against company provocations

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — In yet another attempt by the coal operators to paint the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) as a violent organization, Eastern Associated Coal Co., owned by Peabody Coal, is attempting to fire at least 20 striking miners. Letters received by the workers allege acts of misconduct during the five-month strike, which now involves 18,000 UMWA members. The letters inform the strikers they are suspended with intent to discharge.

Sixteen of the strikers who received the notices are from UMWA District 17 locals in Boone County, West Virginia. Among them is the president of UMWA Local 9177 at the Colony Bay mine.

Miners targeted for firing are leaders and activists. Those who received letters at Colony Bay were among the more than 100 unionists who blocked the portal July 26 to protest the company's decision to use management personnel to cut coal.

Company press releases alleging violent incidents by UMWA members — from illegally blocking roads to throwing rocks or firing guns at company personnel and equipment — have been a daily occurrence in West Virginia for several months now. Fourteen UMWA pickets have been named as suspects by the state police in the July shooting death of Eddie York at Arch Mineral's Ruffner mine.

On the picket lines, miners see the attempt by Peabody to fire fellow strikers as an act meant to intimidate workers from

taking further action and to create another bargaining chip in the ongoing negotiations between the UMWA and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association.

"I think it was a bad mistake by Peabody," said Howard Green, a member of the UMWA International Executive Board. "It makes us more determined. They are picking on local leadership and active individuals. Basically, we should not go back to work until these people are rehired."

*Estelle DeBates is a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Morgantown.*

BY FÉLIX LÓPEZ AND TONY PRINCE

BROOKLYN, New York — Five members of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) Local 155 at Mademoiselle Knitwear in Brooklyn, New York, visited striking members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in southwestern Pennsylvania in early October as part of an effort to build solidarity with the coal miners' strike.

Almost 70 Mademoiselle workers supported this effort by signing solidarity greetings to the miners and contributing more than \$40 to the strike.

The garment workers visited Camp Union Valley, near the town of East Finley, Pennsylvania. The camp is four miles down the road from the big nonunion Bailey mine, which belongs to Consol Energy Inc. Consol and the other coal companies have violated the clause



Militant/Arthur Hughes  
Members of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union solidarity delegation with UMWA striker at Camp Union Valley in Pennsylvania. Camp Union Valley officially opens October 16. It is designed to serve as a solidarity and information center for the 18,000 miners on strike in seven states.

of the last contract that says three out of every five miners they hire have to be laid-off members of the UMWA. Often the companies have opened new mines under a different name, claiming that these are completely distinct companies and are therefore not bound by the contract. This practice is known as "double breasting."

The Bailey complex is a symbol of this violation of the contract, which, if it is not stopped, will result in the eventual disappearance of the UMWA as the union mines are depleted.

The ILGWU members helped in the construction of a building at Camp Union Valley that will serve as a dining area and meeting

hall. They also visited picket lines at the Dilworth mine, near Crucible, Pennsylvania, and the UMWA Local 1980 union hall, where they spent one night. The miners greeted them warmly everywhere they went.

Now the five unionists are discussing with their workmates at Mademoiselle how they can use this trip to promote more solidarity with the miners' strike through their union. The UMWA has a phone number to call for those wishing to build support for the strike. It is 1(800) 334 UMWA.

*Félix López and Tony Prince are members of ILGWU Local 155 at Mademoiselle Knitwear in Brooklyn.*

# Toronto union conference solidarizes with Cuba

BY JOHN STEELE AND SUSAN BERMAN

TORONTO — "Many unions and people from every walk of life are represented here," Sarah Shantal, a leader of Worker to Worker Canada/Cuba Labour Solidarity and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers, told the 260 trade unionists and Cuba solidarity activists from the United States and Canada who were attending an International Trade Union Conference in Solidarity with Cuba here October 1-3.

The conference took place at the headquarters of the Ontario Federation of Labour and was endorsed by a number of labor councils and union locals. It featured three leaders of the Central Federation of Cuban Workers (CTC): Angel Luis Mena Kindelán, secretary-general of the Light Industry Workers Union; Manuel Montero Bistilleiro, of the International Affairs Department of the CTC; and Albis Nubia Favier Ramírez, secretary-general of the Trade Union of Public Health Workers. "Cuba has always been there for workers everywhere in the world," Shantal said. "We must be there for Cuba. An injury to one is an injury to all."

Worker to Worker Canada/Cuba Labour Solidarity sponsored the conference, along with the U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange.

"Union members in the United States and Canada can work together to get rid of the U.S. blockade against Cuba," said Ignacio Meneses, a leader of the Exchange.

A public meeting held during the conference was addressed by the Cuban union leaders; Luis Lasaca, a leader of striking mushroom workers from Pennsylvania; representatives of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW), the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), and the United Electrical Workers of America in the United States; and Tom Hansen, a leader of Pastors for Peace, which organized the U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan. The caravan, which involved more than 300 drivers, delivered more than 100 tons of aid to Cuba from the United States, Mexico, and Canada, defying the U.S. embargo in the process.

"Over the past 30 years the blockade has cost Cuba \$30 billion to \$40 billion," Montero said. "Today, with factory closings due to lack of fuel and spare parts, because of the blockade and collapse of trade with the former Soviet Union, 40 percent of our workers are paralyzed."

The Cuban union leaders explained that the CTC, composed of 18 national unions,

is able to mobilize Cuba's workers, in cooperation with Cuba's revolutionary government, to help ensure that no one goes without food, medical care, housing, and income.

The "CTC tries to go beyond the philosophical and political barriers [between unionists in different countries] to work together on issues that bring us together in common struggle," Montero told the conference.

Participants discussed a number of proposals to build solidarity with working people in Cuba within the labor movements in Canada and the United States.

"The vast majority of workers in North America are not against Cuba," Montero said. "So we can work to improve relations. We are ready to have fraternal relations with all union organizations in the U.S. and Canada."

There was considerable discussion on Pastors for Peace's plans to organize another Friendship caravan in February 1994 to challenge Washington's embargo.

"Cubans highly valued the material aid brought by the last caravan," Montero said. But "above all it was the support for Cuba which inspired us a lot."

"In the next caravan we want to have at least 20 trucks from across Canada and we want them from countries like England, Germany, Spain, Italy, and Mexico," Hansen said, urging that unionists in both Canada and the United States get fully behind the next Friendship caravan.

David Ornstein, a member of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, said that teachers in Canada had already filled three small vans with school supplies.

A delegate from CAW Local 112 in Toronto said he wanted to convince the national leadership of his union to participate fully in the upcoming caravan and to help win official recognition of the CTC from the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC).

"We want to be part of the next caravan and make it a coast-to-coast effort," said Christianne Malet from the International Solidarity Committee of the Quebec Teachers Federation (CEQ).

One discussion at the conference was over how to win more working people to oppose the embargo of Cuba.

"We have to reach the average working person and convince them to support the fight against the blockade," said Jarvis Tyner, a leader of the Communist Party of the United States. "We have to convince them that trade with Cuba will be mutually beneficial and

provide jobs in the United States."

Steelworker and Socialist Workers Party leader James Warren disagreed. "Not a single person participated in the Friendshipment to get something from it," he said. "This is not what motivates people. People can and must be won on the justice of the fight, not whether they will get jobs. Fidel Castro has explained that movements are built by thinking, self-acting people. We have real possibilities to win solidarity if we approach the Friendshipment and other activities this way."

In the final session the conference adopted a resolution calling for the immediate lifting

of the U.S. government embargo.

The resolution urged unionists to work to get official recognition of the CTC by the AFL-CIO in the United States and the CLC in Canada; to participate in a series of upcoming labor seminars at the CTC Lázaro Peña leadership school in Cuba; and to begin to organize trade union and other support for the February Friendshipment caravan being organized by Pastors for Peace to once again break the U.S. embargo.

*John Steele is a member of IAM Local 2113 at Ford Electronics. Susan Berman is a member of CAW Local 1285 at Chrysler.*



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

BY MAGGIE PUCCI

**Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.**

Pathfinder will reissue two classics in October with colorful new covers. The first, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*, by Frederick Engels, includes an introduction by Evelyn Reed, author of several titles published by Pathfinder, including *Woman's Evolution and Sexism and Science*.

Engels's pioneering work shows that the oppression of women as a sex begins with the development of private property, and explains how the development of the modern working class creates the material basis to end that oppression. This book is part of the required reading for courses at a number of universities, including New York University, Bard College, the University of Illinois, and the University of Iowa.

The second book, *Democracy and Revolution* by George Novack, traces the evolution of democracy from its roots in the mercantile city-states of ancient Greece

through its rise and decline under modern capitalism.

\* \* \*

Pathfinder bookstores are exhibiting at numerous bookfairs this fall. At the giant "New York Is Book Country" bookfair on Fifth Avenue in New York City, the Manhattan Pathfinder bookstore sold \$525 worth of books.

Booth staffers report that Pathfinder's newest titles — *The Truth About Yugoslavia* and *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920 — First Congress of the Peoples of the East* — were popular with people attending the fair. Participants in the Pathfinder team noted that many fair participants were looking for books about politics.

Pathfinder supporters in France sold \$1,200 worth of literature at the Fête de l'Humanité, a fair sponsored by the French Communist Party daily *l'Humanité* in Paris. Cuban economist Carlos Tablada joined the effort and helped sell 34 copies of his book *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*; 27 in French, 4 in Spanish and 3 in English. Twenty copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today*, by Mary-Alice Waters, in French and Spanish were also sold at the Paris fair.



# Why is Washington invading Somalia?

## Debate rages among capitalist politicians on how to advance imperial interests

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The casualties suffered by U.S. troops in a 15-hour battle in Mogadishu October 3-4 have fueled a raging debate among capitalist politicians on President Bill Clinton's policy in Somalia.

Various congressmen from both the Democratic and Republican parties as well as right-wing columnist Patrick Buchanan have called for the troops to be withdrawn.

While putting forward what sound like antiwar slogans, these spokespeople for U.S. imperialism are essentially arguing for what they deem a more effective policy of defending the wealthy ruling families' economic and political interests abroad, including going to war to defend what they consider more vital "national interests."

Epitomizing the call by right-wing forces to withdraw from Somalia was the headline of the October 5 *New York Post*. "Bring 'em Home. Clinton urged to withdraw troops from Somalia hell," the *Post*'s front page screamed.

*Washington Post* columnist Charles Krauthammer argued along similar lines. "On Somalia the president has not just been wrong but derelict," he stated. "He should have gotten us out in March when our feeding mission was complete. He certainly should have gotten us out in August when our troops began to fall into guerrilla war."

Buchanan wrote, "Somalia is a failure, and President Clinton ought to admit it. . . . The U.S. should go in, get our prisoners back, pack up, and get out."

While calling for a rapid withdrawal, Buchanan projected the Somali mission as having begun as a humanitarian one that went awry under Clinton and UN auspices. "Americans supported George Bush's decision to go into Somalia," he wrote, "because we were told we were going in to feed starving children, not get embroiled in some civil war."

### Not a humanitarian operation

The U.S. operation in Somalia is not now nor has it ever been motivated by humanitarianism. And the facts show that it never was much of a "food distribution mission" either.

At the heart of Buchanan's objections is that Clinton placed U.S. troops under UN command. Under the "UN-dictated New World Order," he wrote, "for the first time in history, U.S. troops are to be turned over to the command of foreign generals." The "Clinton Doctrine," he insisted, "is a surrender of U.S. sovereignty."

At the same time, however, Buchanan makes clear that he has no fundamental objections to the U.S. government's massive use of military force against the Somali people, carried out under the code words of "getting Aidid."

"That Gen. Aidid deserves what is coming is not at issue," he states. None of these capitalist politicians have uttered a peep about the 300 Somalis killed October 3 and

the hundreds more wounded.

West Virginia Democratic senator Robert Byrd, one of those leading the charge in Congress demanding withdrawal, promotes a similar anti-UN but pro-U.S. imperialism perspective. "I have never saluted the UN flag," he stated, "I salute Old Glory, the American flag."

Clinton's decision to quadruple the U.S. military presence in Somalia and once again place this entire force under U.S. command has undercut many of the objections raised by congressional representatives to the UN-commanded operation.

Others, such as Democratic politician Jesse Jackson, back Clinton's continued use of troops there, arguing that to "cut and run" would mean having "a double standard when it comes to Africa."

But there has never been a double standard for U.S. military interventions, whether under the Stars and Stripes or the blue flag of the United Nations. From the Korean War in the 1950s and the Congo in the 1960s to Bosnia, Somalia, and Haiti today, Washington's goals have been to extend capitalist superexploitation, smash attempts by workers and peasants to throw off the yoke of imperialist domination, and push back competing rivals like Bonn and Tokyo.

### Reasserting U.S. 'right to intervene'

Washington's invasion of Somalia last December, which received full bipartisan support, was primarily aimed at reasserting the "right" of the U.S. military to intervene in areas around the world deemed unstable from the vantage point of U.S. imperialism. They aimed to put in place, under the auspices of the United Nations, a government capable of furthering U.S. military and political interests in the region.

The U.S. rulers have long viewed Somalia as a strategic asset and acted accordingly. Washington wants to dominate this country because of its location as a choke point for shipping lanes in the Red Sea, through which oil and other lucrative commodities pass.

While a serious famine ravaged parts of Somalia earlier in the year, by the time U.S. troops entered the country, it was virtually over. "The marines, briefed on the ships to expect a destroyed city," stated a Dec. 13, 1992, *New York Times* article, "were surprised to discover throngs of people, food markets, and a thriving underground economy [in Mogadishu]."

From the town of Baidoa, which the *Times* had previously described as "the epicenter of the Somali famine," a *Times* reporter wrote, soon after the initial troop deployment last year, that "the surrounding countryside is now green after heavy rains and, in some places, sprouting maize."

Markets in many of the main towns were actually overflowing with cheap food. The price of a 110-pound bag of rice dropped to \$5, the lowest price anywhere in the world.

Robert Oakley to Mogadishu." He had served in this capacity earlier this year.

"It was only when [U.S. ambassador Madeleine] Albright, in unusually blunt words told Boutros-Ghali that U.S. terms for continuing in Somalia were not negotiable," continued the *Post*, "that the secretary-general agreed to accept them, diplomats said." Oakley will be reporting directly to U.S. authorities, not to the UN command.

"I cannot afford a confrontation with so important a member as the United States," said Boutros-Ghali after he finally absorbed Washington's decision.

In an effort to give a facelift to its plan to impose a regime to its liking in Somalia, the Clinton administration is seeking what it terms an "African solution" to the crisis in the Horn of Africa. Oakley has been reportedly instructed to involve Ethiopian president Meles Zenawi, Eritrean president Isaias Afewerke, as well as Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak and other members of the Organization of African Unity in efforts to draw up a political agreement that can be imposed upon Somalia.

Mubarak has agreed to chair such a meeting scheduled to convene October 20 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

According to Rakiya Omaar and Alex de Waal, codirectors of African Rights, a London-based human rights organization, the food aid being brought into the country "became counterproductive. Priced out of the market by the U.S.-inspired influx of cheap imported food, Somali farmers were unable to sell their produce," they explained. As a result, many of these farmers switched to growing cash crops, making Somalia even more dependent on foreign relief aid.

U.S. government spokespeople and the big-business media describe the U.S. and UN troops present in the country as involved in a noble, selfless mission, while portraying the Somali people who protest the occupation of their country as being "uncivilized," and part of mobs of "barbarians." The British *Economist*, with its imperial arrogance, describes the city of Mogadishu as being an "urban rabbit-warren."

These dehumanizing descriptions of the Somali people are intended to numb working people around the world to the brutalization carried out by U.S. or UN troops. They are just another instance of turning the victim into the criminal. The poverty and serious problems of underdevelopment facing Somalia are the result of decades of exploitation and oppression at the hands of the wealthy imperialist powers—the United States, Italy, Britain, France, and others. And the Somali people have a proud history of resistance against these same powers.

Somalia was colonized in the second half of the 19th century by France in the northeast (now Djibouti), Italy in the southern region, and Britain in the north. After years of struggle, the Somali people won independence from Britain and France in 1960 and reunified the country.

In 1969 Maj. Gen. Mohammed Siad Barre seized power in an army coup. He suspended the constitution and dissolved the legislature. In the late 1970s the U.S. government became one of the chief backers of the Siad Barre dictatorship, which was earlier armed and funded by the Stalinist regime in Moscow. Washington funneled almost \$900 million in military and economic aid to Siad Barre through the 1980s. In return, the dictator granted the Pentagon use of the Berbera naval base at the mouth of the Red Sea.

After ravaging the country for more than two decades, Siad Barre was finally overthrown in January 1991 by forces organized by the opposition United Somali Congress. Washington subsequently lost use of its military base there.

The legacy of imperialist exploitation left Somalia, like most countries in Africa, deeply in debt. During the 1980s its foreign debt more than tripled, reaching \$2 billion. This is a gigantic sum for a country with a



Front page of October 5 *New York Post* epitomized right-wing calls for troop withdrawal from Somalia. While putting forward what sound like antiwar slogans, spokespeople for U.S. imperialism argue for a more effective policy to defend the interests abroad of the wealthy ruling families.

population of 7 million and a per capita gross national product of \$120 a year.

### Lessons from Burkina Faso revolution

Arguments like those presented by Jackson and other liberal figures go in the opposite direction of the only way working people can advance: by organizing themselves as a class to defend the interests of the toiling majority of humanity.

Only a revolution that organizes and mobilizes working people in the towns and the countryside toward the formation of a government that will break with imperialist domination can solve the deep social crisis wracking Somalia. And the presence of U.S. and UN troops, as well as "food aid" that perpetuates and extends dependence on foreign relief, is an obstacle standing in the way of Somali working people.

The road forward was shown by the revolution that unfolded in the West African country of Burkina Faso from 1983-87 under the leadership of Thomas Sankara. Like Somalia, this country was colonized by European imperialist powers and faced similar levels of poverty and deprivation.

"The democratic and popular revolution needs a convinced people, not a conquered people," explained Sankara, to be able "to transform all economic, social, and cultural relations in society."

"Aid to Burkina Faso must serve to strengthen, not undermine our sovereignty," Sankara said, who also pointed to the need to struggle "against those who starve the people, the agricultural speculators, and capitalists of all types."

This revolutionary process was halted through a reactionary coup in which Sankara was murdered in 1987. However, the development of such a high calibre of revolutionary leadership in one of the poorest countries of the world shows that a similar course is possible for the people of Somalia as well as tens of millions of others throughout Africa and elsewhere in the world who are caught in what appears to be an endless cycle of hunger, poverty, and underdevelopment.

## Clinton deploys 20,000 in Somalia

### Continued from front page

basic task would be "carried out on the streets of Mogadishu, block by block, day and night," and would include "establish[ing] roadblocks and checkpoints" along many roads in the city.

In motivating his projected March 31 pull-out date, Clinton said, "We have obligations elsewhere including this very important effort that we've invested a lot in, in Haiti."

German foreign minister Klaus Kinkel reacted negatively to this projection. "All of this talk of pulling out is a very bad sign . . . if you leave before the job is done," he said. "Europe will see this as a new tendency in American politics, likely to spread." Bonn has 1,700 troops stationed in the central Somali town of Belet Huen.

### Washington splits from UN command

The U.S. government's decision to split from the UN command structure evoked an angry response from UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali. According to the *Washington Post*, on October 6, upon being informed of Clinton's plan, "The meeting came to the point of shouting when Boutros-Ghali objected to the administration's decision to return former U.S. envoy to Somalia

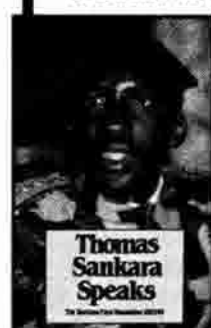
### From Pathfinder

## OPENING GUNS OF WORLD WAR III

### Washington's Assault on Iraq

BY JACK BARNES

The U.S. government's murderous blockade, bombardment, and invasion of Iraq heralded increasingly sharp conflicts among imperialist powers, more wars, and growing instability of international capitalism. In *New International* no. 7, \$12.00



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## World Trade Center trial

Continued from front page  
"manuals," but his attorney noted that all of Ajaj's books were confiscated when he was arrested on immigration charges.

On October 5, the second day of the trial, a Secret Service agent who was in the parking garage where the explosion occurred said "the only thing that was visible" seconds before the bomb went off was a parked yellow van. This was supposed to bolster the prosecution's claim that explosives were detonated in a similar vehicle that had been rented by Salameh. But under cross-examination the agent conceded that while he had given investigators "meticulous information" in February, including a detailed description of another vehicle he saw in the garage, he never mentioned the van until the trial.

Salameh had reported the rental van stolen the night before the bombing. "Eighteen hours before the explosion," defense lawyer Robert Precht said, "Salameh contacts the police, and gives them a reason to look for the van, stop the van, and check the occupants." The defendant was arrested when he returned to the rental agency to request a refund of a \$400 deposit on the vehicle.

Other testimony is expected to include such things as someone saying they saw Abouhalima buying gas for a yellow van the morning of the explosion. "How are you going to attach criminality to paying for gas for someone?" asked his lawyer, Hassen Ibn Abdallah.

Abouhalima was arrested in Egypt and tortured before being extradited to the United States. Egyptian authorities claim he made a confession; prosecutors say it will not be presented as evidence in the trial.

Following the February explosion, federal cops launched a nationwide campaign of spying and harassment against a wide range of political organizations, especially Palestinian groups in the United States.

In an attempt at guilt by association, the government has portrayed the four men on trial and three others charged in the bombing as "Islamic fundamentalist terrorists," who sometimes visited a mosque in Jersey City, New Jersey, led by Omar Abdel Rahman.

Rahman, a blind man from Egypt, has been charged along with 14 others in an alleged conspiracy to blow up tunnels and buildings in New York, although he has not been accused of any actual act to further such a plot. The defendants in the World Trade Center trial have been named as unindicted co-conspirators in this second alleged bombing case, which is based overwhelmingly on the testimony of a former Egyptian police agent turned FBI informant.

Police barricades around the courthouse, two sets of metal detectors at the entrance, and extra cops just outside the courtroom itself have been installed to help create an air of danger in the trial.

While all four defendants are Muslim, none of the jurors are. The sister of one jury member works for the FBI. Another juror told the judge, "I already think they are guilty because of the news, you know, but I think I can be a fair juror." He remained on the jury after making the statement.

## — CALENDAR —

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**End the Embargo against Cuba!** Teach-in and Speakout. Program: Alfonso Fraga, of Cuban Interests Section to the United States. Videos. Talk on Religion in Cuba, Rev. Thomas Cruz and Rev. José Aguilar, Pastors in Havana. Sat., Oct. 23, 1-6 p.m. Morgan State University, Jenkins Building, Room 104. Sponsored by the Central America Solidarity Committee. For more information call (410) 467-9388.

### MINNESOTA

#### Minneapolis

**Want to Make Friends with the People of Cuba? Be Constructive! Build Houses in Havana and Break the Blockade!** Nov. 19-Dec. 1, 1993. For more information, call (612) 378-0062 or write: Pastors for Peace, 331 17th Ave., SE, 55414. Fax: (612) 378-0134.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Celebrate the 47th Anniversary of the Puerto Rican Independent Party, New York Committee.** Documentaries featured, "Puerto Rico: A Historic Opening" and "The Struggle for the Independence of Puerto Rico: Toward the 21st Century." Sat., Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m. 104 West 14th St., 3rd Floor (between 6th and 7th avenues).

## — MILITANT LABOR FORUMS —

### CONNECTICUT

#### New Haven

**The Significance of the Israeli-PLO Accord.** Panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 23, 4 p.m. Dwight Hall, 67 High Street (between Elm and Chapel). Tel: (203) 688-5418.

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**Clinton's Health Care Plan: No Solution for Working People.** Speakers: Steve Strauss, M.D., assistant professor in neurology, University of Maryland; representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**The Deepening Political and Economic Crisis in Russia.** Speaker: Doug Hord, Socialist Workers Party, spent 13 months in Russia, 199-92. Sat., Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. (corner Mass Ave.) Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772. **The Political Crisis in Haiti.** Speaker: Representative, Socialist Workers Party, others. Sat., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. (corner Mass Ave.) Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6777.

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Greensboro

**U.S. Out of Somalia! A Speakout.** Sat., Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

**What Was the Russian Revolution Really All About and Who Are the "Hardliners" and "Reformers" in Russia Today?** Sat., Oct. 30,

7:30 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

**Workers Fight Employer Take-backs.** Speakers: James Davis, Philadelphia Gas Works employee, treasurer, Service Employees International Union Local 686; Melinda Neal, member, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 402C, Shippensburg; Representative, Kaolin mushroom workers union; Kathy Mickells, member, Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-901 and Socialist Workers candidate for city controller. Sat., Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

**Justice Denied: How the Criminal Justice System Victimizes Working People.** Speakers: Mandy Welch, litigation director, Texas Resource Center; Jerry Freiwerth, member, Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers and the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Houston. Sat., Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. 6969 Gulf Freeway, Suite 250, Donation: \$4. Tel: (713) 644-9066.

**Socialist Campaign Weekend.** Speaker: Jerry Freiwerth, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Houston. Rally, Sat., Oct. 30, 7 p.m. Classes: Sun., Oct. 31, 6969 Gulf Freeway, Suite 250. Tel: (713) 644-9066.

## Abortion rights meeting planned in Alabama

BY DENISE McINERNEY

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Supporters of a woman's right to choose abortion will gather here November 5-7 for "Defending Choice; a Conference for Activism." The event is being sponsored by Birmingham Clinic Defense Team, Alabama National Organization for Women, and Alabamians for Choice. It will be held on the University of Alabama at Birmingham campus.

Aaron Goodall, one of the meeting's planners, said, "This conference is intended to help organize current pro-choice activists and to encourage people who are interested to become active in the pro-choice movement."

A featured speaker will be David Gunn, Jr., an abortion rights activist and the son of the abortion doctor murdered in Pensacola, Florida in March. Workshops will be held on a number of topics, including: organizing clinic defense, answering the propaganda of abortion rights opponents, the fight for abortion rights internationally, as well as first amendment rights during abortion protests. A session called "What Really Goes On in the Clinics" will present the scientific facts on abortion and fetal development.

The event will end with a rally featuring Diane Derzis, executive director of Summit

Medical Centers and Dr. Thomas Tucker, whose clinic in Jackson was a target of Operation Rescue's "Cities of Refuge" campaign in July.

The registration fee for the weekend is

## Detroit cops sentenced to prison

Continued from front page

were read. Inmates at the Ryan Corrections facility here also watched the broadcast, cheering when they learned the two cops would go immediately to jail.

Leading up to the trial, thousands of working people here had protested and demanded the cops be convicted and jailed.

Reactionary forces launched a counter-campaign to defend the cops following their conviction. They collected 40,000 signatures on petitions demanding pardons and claimed jurors were blackmailed into a guilty verdict out of fear of a riot if the cops were acquitted. The rightists tried to dehumanize Green because he was a user of illegal drugs, unemployed, and Black.

At the sentencing session here, the Green family eloquently answered this coun-

tercampaign. Speaking on behalf of the entire family, Sherry Green, the victim's sister, read a statement to the court. Malice Green, she said, worked in a Chicago steel mill for 13 years until he was laid off and returned to Detroit. He became a victim of illegal drug use like many other workers.

"Some see him as an unemployed drug addict and act as if he had no right to live," she continued. Green rejected this argument and demanded the cops get "the longest sentences permitted under the law."

Punishment of the cops, she explained, was in the interests of "all human beings, employed or unemployed — Black, white, red or brown — who have a right not to be murdered just because they use drugs."

Cindy Jaquith is a member of the United Auto Workers in Detroit.

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Presentation, slideshow on political developments in Iran, Azerbaijan, and the Central Asian republics by Ma'mud Shirvani, who returned from the region. Shirvani is a coauthor of the introduction to the Pathfinder book *To See the Dawn*, the documentary record of the First Congress of the Peoples of the East, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in September 1920.

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**They are good at it**—The TRW company billed the feds \$40 million for cost overruns on a satellite contract.



**Harry Ring**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration responded sharply. It awarded the company an extra \$5 million for "excellent performance."

**"Can't talk now, I've got the pope on the other line"**—Golden Pyramid of Canada has won

world rights to excerpt weekly messages by the pope on 1-900 pay-for-call lines. Golden Pyramid will get 50 percent of the take, 40 percent will go to the Vatican, with a "management" cut to Global Telecom, which initiated the call-the-pope deal.

**Class education**—[Walt] Disney Elementary School in Burbank, home of the Disney studio, wants to change its name. Financially pressed, they find fund-raising hard because it's assumed they have a special relationship with the company. Disney does permit the students to sell Mickey T-shirts, but they have to buy them through the studio—at a higher price than the wholesalers.

**Relaxation response**—Under the pressure of a domestic and international stench, authorities in São Paulo, Brazil, initiated a "rehabilitation" program for the worst killers on its military police force. Last year, the force butchered a reported 1,350 civilians. The program features meditation and other forms of stress relief. Officials claim the killings have dropped 70 percent.

**But killed by kindlier cops**—São Paulo police may be saying mantras, but they still file reported killings under "Dead Outlaws."

**Makes sense, no?**—After 10 people died in a fire in a Los Angeles Latino community, the fire department did a study of its fire in-

spection program. It found that 30 percent of apartment buildings in poor (nonwhite) communities get required annual inspection, while in wealthy areas it's 90 percent. An official explained there are so many fires in poor neighborhoods that they have less time to do prevention inspections.

**Can't interfere with basic functions**—An advocacy group set up a portable toilet for the homeless in downtown Seattle. Perhaps with a sense of irony, they located it next to a Nordstrom display window featuring a mannequin decked out to the tune of \$866. The homeless moved it into the alley, but the city still hauled it off. No portables without the OK of the store and the

property owner.

**No double standard**—Despite his plea that "the Lord specifically commanded me to rob banks," a Los Angeles jury convicted a man for doing so. If their verdict had the weight of legal precedent, we mused, on the great day when bank presidents are brought into court, none could cop a "God told me" plea.

**How about dysfunctional profs?**—A California management professor and a psychotherapist are readying a book on how to understand bosses. They say it's like parenting. A bullying boss probably had a bullying father. And an employee who can't get along with the boss was probably spoiled rotten.

## Hawaii: 100 years of imperialist exploitation

BY HILDA CUZCO

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii. The queen was toppled by a group of U.S. sugar planters backed by the U.S. Marines.

The takeover took place at the opening of the imperialist era, when Washington and other capitalist powers went to war to expand world markets for profit.

Last January 17, 12,000 native Hawaiians and supporters marched in downtown Honolulu from the Aloha Tower to Iolani Palace in commemoration of the 1893 overthrow. Activists described it as the largest public political demonstration seen in the islands in recent history.

This rally is reflective of a growing discussion among working people of Hawaiian descent on the fight against discrimination, racism, and national oppression by the capitalist rulers.

Washington dispossessed the native Hawaiians of their lands, bringing today's indigenous population into poverty through decades of ruthless exploitation and repression.

In 1778, Capt. James Cook and his crew "discovered" the Hawaiian Islands in the name of the British Crown.

Cook's arrival brought slavery, exploitation, and diseases previously unknown to the people of Hawaii. W. B. Elkin of Cornell University wrote that "the causes of the large death-rate in Hawaii are in brief two—vice and disease. For both of these, people of Christian nations are largely to blame."

The indigenous population of Hawaii was estimated at 200,000 when New England missionaries arrived there in 1820. A little more than a century later, the Native population had dropped to 22,000.

In 1848–49 measles, whooping cough, diarrhea, and influenza killed more than 10,000; in 1853 smallpox took 2,500 lives; in 1860 measles also killed large numbers. The exploiters forced the Hawaiian government to repeal laws prohibiting the importation of rum and brandy and restricting prostitution.

With the growth of the sugar industry during the U.S. Civil War, exploitation sharpened and the native population of Hawaii decreased.

The rapid expansion of the sugar industry and the labor shortage led the planters to bring workers by the hundreds of thousands from Asia and Europe. Immigrant workers from Japan, the Philippines, and China, recruited to toil in the sugar fields, became the great bulk of the Hawaiian population. The rulers accumulated massive fortunes at the expense of these workers, who earned minimal wages and benefits and lived in subhuman conditions.

The wealthy owners of the sugar plantations, who advocated annexation by the United States, gathered force at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. A resolution annexing Hawaii to the United States was signed in July 1898.

This act ensured the rise of Hawaii's "Big Five" corporations—Castle and Cooke, C. Brewer, American Factors, Theo H. Davies, and Alexander and Baldwin—which held absolute political and economic control of the islands.

The Big Five utilized all their might to crush any labor uprising.

The Japanese workers of Oahu organized a strike in 1909 to demand the same pay rates as their Portuguese coworkers. The sugar planters broke the strike and threw the

leaders in jail.

In January 1920, Japanese and Filipino workers went on strike on six plantations, demanding better working conditions. Many Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese workers joined in. The growers responded with repression. Thousands of strikers and their families were evicted from their homes during an influenza epidemic; many died. Four years later, as conditions worsened, new strike actions took place. This time the planters sent National Guard squads, armed with machine guns, to break the strike. Some strikers were arrested on charges of "murder, rioting, and conspiracy," while others were deported.

In 1946 and 1949, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) led two successful strikes of thousands of workers. The strike of 1949 was the most prolonged and militant in Hawaii's history, as the rank-and-file unionists held together strong for several months. ILWU workers in California, in solidarity with the strikers, halted all handling of sugar shipments coming from the islands. When the Big Five, in a desperate move, attempted to use the town of The Dalles, Oregon, to unload the sugar, dock workers from Portland showed up there and returned the loads to the ships. To this day many of the sugar and pineapple companies owned by Dole and Del Monte are organized by the ILWU, which has more than 20,000 members in Hawaii.

The working class in Hawaii is increasingly multinational, with workers who are Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, Samoan, and native Hawaiian. Hawaiians often are consigned to low-paying jobs and live in impoverished neighborhoods.

In 1959, the United States government took a poll on statehood in which only "qualified individuals" could participate. This meant primarily U.S. citizens who had lived at least a year in Hawaii. A majority voted in favor, and Hawaii was made the 50th state in the United States that year.

Hawaii is the nerve center for Washington's massive Pacific naval fleet. The islands are dotted with military bases and tens of thousands of troops.

The entire island of Kahoolawe—considered sacred by native Hawaiians—has been used for target practice by the U.S. Navy since World War II. Today the island is covered with unexploded shells, pockmarked with bomb craters, and probably unfit for human habitation. In the early 1970s, Hawaiian activists occupied Kahoolawe to protest the bomb testings. After hearings on the abuse of the island, the Navy was forced in 1992 to stop using it for military practice.

Groups supporting sovereignty sought federal recognition of Hawaiians as a native group as compensation for past mistreatment beginning in the 1970s.

Within the last decade the discussion of sovereignty has grown and won support among many indigenous Hawaiians. A small number advocate complete secession from the United States, while an even smaller group calls for total independence including the expulsion of many non-natives.

Mililani Trask, a prominent political activist, calls for a "nation within a nation," similar to those recognized through existing U.S. treaties with 300 American Indian nations. Her organization, Ka Lahui Hawaii (the Hawaiian Nation), seeks recognition by the U.S. government as a self-governing entity within the state of Hawaii.



Housing protest in Hawaii, 1980. Two million acres of land were expropriated from indigenous Hawaiians in 1893. Discussion on opposing discrimination is on rise today.

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People  
October 25, 1968 Price 10¢

More than 500 active-duty GIs from bases in the Bay Area joined a massive antiwar march and demonstration here today, in an historic development in American politics. Donald Duncan, former Green Beret master sergeant described the "GI and Vet March for Peace" as the beginning of a new stage for the movement. Duncan spoke at a rally following a march by 15,000 to San Francisco's Civic Center.

The march had been organized with broad legal, clerical, labor and campus support as a means of protecting the GIs. That it worked was shown when all of the march's GI organizers were present Oct. 12.

The brass had shown their concern about the impact of the march from the beginning. In a telegram intercepted by GIs friendly to the march, one general told another the march had to be quashed because of its "highly undesirable impact on discipline." The military harassed civilian leafleters on and off bases. GIs were threatened with severe punishment if they attended the march.

The rally opened with Airman First Class Michael Locks, one of the GI organizers, reading telegrams and letters of support from GIs around the country and in Vietnam. One asked for information on GI antiwar actions after Nov. 15, when he is to return from Vietnam. Another said, "Hundreds of GIs I've talked to here [in Vietnam] agree with me. . . . Let me know how I can help."

Lieut. J.G. Sue Schnall told the rally the Vietnam war "means getting to know them, learning to love these guys, then losing them in a dirty, filthy war. For these reasons I plead: End the war now. Bring our boys home. Bring our boys home alive!"

Marine Corps reservist Steve Pizzo,

whose unit turned out in large numbers, said, "This turnout is encouraging. We don't feel so alone. . . . The day of the silent sacrifice is over."

### THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

October 23, 1943

Virtual reinstatement of the United Mine Workers and a debate on Jim Crow union locals were the highlights of an otherwise perfunctory and spiritless annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, Oct. 4-14 in Boston. Continuing their slavish adherence to the Roosevelt administration, the AFL leaders did not even give the delegates a realistic picture of the price-rises, wage-freezing and growth of reaction during the last year.

Indicative of the ultra-conservative character of the convention was the fact that of over 600 delegates—representatives of international unions, local central bodies and federal locals directly affiliated to the AFL—only eight were Negroes and 15 women.

A resolution condemning Jim Crow auxiliary locals—locals in which Negroes are segregated and which have no voting power in the international unions to which they belong—was introduced by the Sleeping Car Porters but was buried by being referred by the resolutions committee to a "post-war problems committee" for "further study."

The motion on the miners took the form of empowering the Executive Council to admit the miners. Opponents had attempted to amend the resolution so that the next convention would pass on the conditions of reinstatement. But apparently an understanding had been reached between the miners officials and the AFL "big shots" and John L. Lewis, on the eve of the convention, sent a letter giving satisfactory assurances that jurisdictional differences with the miners' District 50 would be adjusted.



# No U.S. or UN troops to Haiti!

Armed rightist thugs, representing a tiny minority of the Haitian people, but with full backing of the country's military, have stepped up their violent attacks aimed at preventing Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide from returning to power. The UN-brokered accord signed last July between Aristide and the military regime has virtually collapsed.

Washington claims that its contribution of 600 soldiers, as part of a UN force of 1,300 being sent to Haiti, will simply be there to help "retrain" the Haitian army and police. Yet, it was these very same repressive forces that U.S. marines succeeded in installing, training, and equipping with armor in the first place when they occupied the country for 19 years earlier this century.

U.S. military intervention in Haiti — whether in its own right or carried out under the UN banner — is not aimed at lifting the repressive boot off the back of the Haitian masses. Washington's goal is to strengthen the very police and military that will continue to be called into action to defend capitalist property and political rule against Haitian workers and peasants organizing to stand up for their rights.

The Clinton administration continues to voice vague support for democracy and the return of Aristide to Haiti, while maintaining the criminal policy of forcibly repatriating Haitians who take to the high seas to flee political and military repression in their homeland.

How can a government that forces thousands of refugees back into the bloody hands of Haiti's military be trusted to restore democratic rule?

For 29 years, under both Democratic and Republican

administrations, Washington backed and financed the repressive Duvalier dictatorship. Only a massive rebellion of Haiti's workers and peasants, which Washington despised, finally forced an end to this reign of terror in February 1986.

Officials in the Clinton administration are no strangers to the Duvalier dictatorship either. In fact, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown pocketed \$146,400 a year for serving as Duvalier's chief Washington lobbyist between 1983 and 1986.

The White House is simply attempting to use the political crisis in Haiti to militarily intervene in the island and ensure the perpetuation of capitalist superexploitation of Haitian working people.

In demonstrations in Miami, several Haitians are correctly pointing to collusion between Washington and the Cédras regime in forestalling an end to military rule.

What's needed to aid the Haitian people in their struggle to return Aristide to power is not U.S. troops but solidarity actions by working people and all defenders of democratic rights in the United States and throughout the world.

Working people should demand:

- End Washington's policy of forced repatriation of refugees and grant political asylum in the United States to all Haitians requesting it.
- No U.S. or UN military intervention.
- Maintain the economic sanctions until the military thugs are out of power.

# Blood of Waco on Clinton's hands

U.S. attorney general Janet Reno and President Bill Clinton still have the blood of more than 80 men, women, and children in Waco, Texas, on their hands, despite the recent Justice Department report attempting to whitewash the government's atrocities there.

The portion of the government report detailing the siege of the Branch Davidian complex — and the deadly police assault and conflagration that ended it — illustrates many of the ways in which the police and their masters in Washington trampled on the democratic and human rights of the members of the religious group.

Residents were subjected to "psychological warfare," including blaring Tibetan chants, the sounds of squealing rabbits, and other loud noises directed at the complex. The government shut off electricity to the ranch and had cars belonging to members of the sect hauled off.

The report also revealed the sheer hypocrisy in Reno's claim that she and Clinton ordered the six-hour tank assault to put an end to child abuse in the compound. No evidence of such abuse ever materialized. The Justice Department report didn't even attempt to justify Reno's fantastic claims of child molestation. But the bodies of 25 children under the age of 15 were found in the ashes, burned by the fire started after Reno ordered the tank assault. The child abuser in this case was none other than the White House.

A report issued a week earlier by the Treasury Department gave a picture of other abuses during the raid by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) that

initiated the standoff, carried out on grounds of allegations that the group had illegal weapons.

Both investigations, however, aimed to absolve the government and police of primary responsibility for the slaughter. While some top officials of the ATF were removed from their posts, it was for incompetence in carrying out the assault, not because Washington had a sudden urge to defend democratic rights. The Justice Department report is even more blatant in its defense of the FBI's murderous actions. "I found no fault in the performance of law enforcement during the standoff and the tear gas assault," declared former Justice Department official Edward Dennis in announcing his conclusions.

The Clinton administration and the ruling class it represents want to numb working people to this kind of slaughter and flagrant violation of rights. The idea is to whittle away at the rights of people who are portrayed as less than human — "fanatics," "extremists," or just "crazy" — thereby reducing the rights of everyone. And who can be considered "extremists"? Striking unionists? Palestinian activists? Fighters against cop brutality? Young people defending abortion clinics?

Working people need to reject the conclusions of the reports on Waco and tell the truth about what really occurred — a massacre planned, organized, and executed by the U.S. government at its highest levels with callous disregard for human life.

# Defend immigrant workers

California governor Pete Wilson is calling for denying citizenship to children of undocumented immigrant workers. Washington recently quadrupled the number of federal agents swarming the border with Mexico around El Paso, Texas. Rightists recently launched assaults on refugees in Sweden. The *Wall Street Journal* demands that social services, such as medical care, education, and welfare, be denied to immigrant workers.

From Europe to North America, the employers and capitalist politicians blame immigrant workers for the social wreckage accelerated by the world economic depression. This scapegoating serves a twofold purpose. First, it is aimed at dividing the working class.

Secondly, by creating a pariah layer of the working class with no rights, who can be intimidated and cut off from fellow workers, the capitalist class seeks to increase its profits and drive down the wages of all working people.

"California is beside itself over the Mexican influx; Texas isn't. What's the difference?" the *Journal* asks, pointing to the larger number of Mexican workers in California.

The reason for this difference, the paper claims, is that

"California is a prominent welfare state; Texas isn't. Whether for public education or emergency and routine medical services, California's spending far outstrips that in Texas."

The *Journal's* answer: No social benefits whatsoever for "illegal aliens."

The "cheap labor is good, and social benefits for the working class are bad" refrain is exactly what the rulers would like to shove down the throats of all working people.

It is only by all of us standing together — regardless of where we were born or where we live — that the working class can begin to defend itself from the rulers drive for profits.

The recent protest against Wilson's proposals in Los Angeles as well as demonstrations in Sweden against racist attacks on refugees are examples to be emulated in cities around the world.

Working people should be in the forefront of such mobilizations, demanding the borders be opened. Trade unions should champion opposition to any restrictions on the rights of immigrants and a halt to racist attacks.

# Denny trial

Continued from back page

that Watson abetted him in this.

The videos proved far murkier than touted, and the testimony of the key witness to the beating strongly suggested that cops and prosecutors had a hand — a clumsy one — in scripting it.

Officials have shed copious crocodile tears for Denny. But they have no more concern for him than they did for Rodney King. They have simply exploited the victimization of the trucker to violence-bait the Black community in general and youth who are Black in particular.

Their real attitude toward Denny was graphically illustrated at the assault scene. While millions watched it on TV, the cops were conspicuous by their absence.

The Denny beating stemmed from the antipolice riot that exploded with the April 29, 1992, announcement of the not-guilty verdicts in the case of the cops who brutalized Black construction worker Rodney King.

In one overwhelmingly Black neighborhood, cops tried unsuccessfully to disperse angry protesters and then withdrew from the area. Violence erupted against passing non-Black motorists.

Denny was dragged from his rig and badly beaten, as were several other people.

Four Blacks came to Denny's rescue. They chased the attackers away and succeeded in getting him back into his truck and to a hospital.

## Unsubstantiated accusations

Later Williams, Watson, and several others were arrested. Officials indicated they had been identified on TV film and various amateur videotapes seized by the police.

They asserted that the defendants were known to be members of a street gang, the Eight-Tray Gangster Crips, and that under the law they could and would seek stiffer sentences because of this.

A month later a joint federal-local task force leaked a report to the media that repeated the claim that the defendants were gang members.

But after a hearing that raised bail to \$580,000 for Williams and \$500,000 for Watson, the report went back into the file. It was never introduced at the trial.

In addition to protesting the high bail, defense attorneys tried, unsuccessfully, to have the case dismissed on grounds that the charges themselves were discriminatory.

They pointed to the fact that while charges of attempted murder were lodged in beating of Denny, the cops who beat King were only charged with assault.

Williams is charged with aggravated mayhem against Denny and attempted murder as well. Watson is charged with abetting him in this. If convicted, both face life terms.

Williams denies he was the one who bashed Denny with a brick. Watson's lawyer said his client did put his foot on Denny's neck but argued that, at most, this constitutes simple assault.

At the outset of the trial itself, a prosecution spokesperson assured that videotapes and eyewitnesses would establish that Williams was the person who hit Denny with a brick. "Identification," he declared, "has never been an issue."

But virtually every day of the prosecution's case was devoted to trying to convince the jury that the person they were seeing on the video screen really was Williams.

The only footage of the brick being thrown at Denny was shot from a news helicopter.

Prosecution efforts to prove identity included bringing in an assistant principal from a high school in Vicksburg, Mississippi, that Williams had attended for a year.

The witness testified he had taken advanced courses in kinesiology — body movement — and could identify Williams as the man seen hitting Denny because of Williams's assertively distinctive "slouching" gait. He had not seen Williams since 1989.

Throughout, the prosecution insisted that Williams could be identified on the videotapes by this clothing — a white T-shirt, dark shorts, Nike shoes, and a blue bandanna. Particularly distinctive, they asserted, was a stain on the back of the T-shirt.

The defense established, however, that a scene shot at 5:15 p.m. shows the stain. A quarter of an hour later the shirt on the man the prosecution says is Williams has no stain. Then, in a scene 25 minutes later, the stain reappears.

The prosecution offered two possible explanations for this. One was that Williams had been wearing two shirts and taken one off. The other was that he lived nearby and, in the midst of the riot, had gone home and changed his shirt.

Attorney Charles Lindner, former president of the Los Angeles Criminal Courts Bar Association, who observed the trial, commented that "the videotape has raised more questions than it has answered."

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Naomi Craine  
Business Manager



# Chrysler demands concessions from auto workers

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

Some 6,000 members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) at seven plants briefly walked off their jobs at midnight October 1 when word of a tentative agreement between top UAW officials and company negotiators failed to reach local union officials. The UAW represents 60,000 Chrysler workers in 19 states.

Chrysler plants in Detroit; Sterling Heights, Michigan; St. Louis; Belvidere, Illinois; Newark, Dela-

ware; and Kokomo and New Castle, Indiana; were affected by the October 1 walkout.

year and 10 cents more for the remainder of the contract. Medical coverage remains intact. A similar agreement was reached with the Greif Co., which had pulled out of the Clothing Manufacturers Association and threatened to close down two of its union-organized plants if the workers did not accept deep concessions.

Strike authorization was sought the day the wool contract expired. At Pincus Brothers Maxwell, a major manufacturer in Philadelphia, the assistant Joint Board manager came into the shop, reported on the companies' demands to cut health benefits and wages, and asked if anyone opposed the

## ON THE PICKET LINE

idea of a strike if the manufacturers refused to come up with any better offer. There was no time allotted for discussion. After he left, however, there was a great deal of discussion about the medical coverage.

"Why should we strike over medical coverage?" asked many. "We will have to pay a copayment under the Clinton plan soon anyway."

"Won't we all be covered under a much better national plan soon, like we have back in Italy?" argued one worker.

"Who knows," answered another. "If we do get a national health plan, it could take years. We shouldn't give away what we have now."

"Yes, I read that the doctors and insurance companies are suing. Clinton hasn't been able to come through with much so far. We should keep our plan. It's not much as it is," commented one unionist.

"This Clinton plan is like a license for the companies to make us pay for our insurance now," said another worker.

As the discussion continued a number of workers helped to make sure that everyone from all the different nationalities understood that there might be a strike, what the issues were, and that the workers all needed to stick together. By the end of the day the overwhelming majority of unionists felt it would be justified to strike over the bosses' latest offer.

The next morning the plant manager was outside telling people that an agreement had been signed in New York.

The shorter contract was general-

ly viewed as an attempt by the companies to see if Clinton's health plan will open up the opportunity to institute copayments from workers. □

**Indiana steelworkers strike against concessions**

Six hundred workers struck Slater Steel Corp. in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, October 2 after rejecting a proposed 18-month concession contract. Members of United Steelworkers of America Local 14 voted 243-232 to reject company demands after their old contract expired September 30. About 40 office and technical workers at the plant also voted to strike.

The company is demanding that workers with less than 10 years seniority give up a week of vacation, to slash skilled trades jobs by combining three crafts, and the elimination of 11 janitorial jobs and the contracting out of that work.

The bosses also want a wage freeze and change in how overtime is paid.

Last June the company informed retirees that an optional medical benefit would no longer be offered. The retirees were given two weeks to replace the insurance. □

**Amtrak disaster sparks discussion among workers**

Many rail workers at Amtrak are



Militant/Phoenix Kendrick  
Fifty striking certified nursing aides picketing church that owns their workplace, Susanna Wesley Health Care Center located in Hialeah, Florida. The mostly Haitian women won union recognition and a pay raise October 6 after walking out a week earlier.

wearing purple ribbons for the 47 people, including 5 coworkers, who died in the September 22 train wreck in Alabama.

"It always takes something or someone to die or get hurt before they do anything," noted one rail worker. "I hope they don't try and blame the crew," commented another.

The accident occurred when a tow boat hauling six barges got lost in the thick fog and struck a bridge. Several minutes later, as the Amtrak train crossed, the bridge collapsed, plunging engines and passenger and dorm cars loaded with sleeping passengers and crew members into the bayou.

According to the *New York Times* the bridge, which was constructed in 1909, had no warning lights. Unlike some other bridges it had no "fenders"—poles or concrete pillars stuck in the water to protect bridges from errant vessels.

**USAir announces huge cutbacks in work force**

USAir, the nation's fifth-largest airline, announced major cutbacks directed at its employees October 1.

The airline will eliminate more than 1,800 full-time customer service agents, including ticket agents and baggage handlers. The company intends to increase part-time employees from 24 percent to 30 per-

cent system wide. Two hundred flight attendants and 200 maintenance workers are subject to layoff. Flight attendants will also now be responsible for collecting tickets at the gate, effectively doing away with the need for ticket agents. USAir also said freight handling would be contracted out at 21 locations around the country.

Workers in Pittsburgh, USAir's largest hub, reacted with anger and bitterness. One agent estimated that with benefits, pay cuts, and fewer hours, he took a \$4,000 loss in one year. Another worker said she was planning to purchase a new car but is putting it on hold because she did not know if she would have a job in six months. Daily informal meetings of 50-100 people are taking place in the main terminal, where workers voice their frustrations, protest the cutbacks, and listen to union organizers. □

The following people contributed to this week's column: Peter Thierjung, member of UAW Local 538 in Cleveland; Wendy Lyons, member of ACTWU Local 352 in Philadelphia; John Sarge, member of UAW Local 1900 in Wayne, Michigan; Sue Skinner, member of the United Transportation Union at Amtrak in Greensboro, North Carolina; and Edwin Fruit, member of IAM Local 1976 in Pittsburgh.

**Letters**

## LETTERS

### Detroit cops charged

On September 13, 36th District Judge Alex Allen Jr. ordered two Detroit police officers to be tried on second-degree murder charges in the death of José Iturralde, a 44-year-old Cuban immigrant.

On April 28, Iturralde, who spoke little English, was approached by two plainclothes police officers. According to witness testimony at the preliminary hearing, the officers shoved Iturralde against a wall and ordered him to remove his hands from his pockets. But he refused, cussing at them in English and Spanish.

Iturralde then put a hand in his coat and the officers pulled their guns and began shooting. They kept firing even after he fell to the ground. No gun was found on his body.

Judge Allen found no evidence that Rico Hardy and Ira Todd, the two officers, ever identified themselves as police before confronting Iturralde and that Iturralde may have assumed he was in danger. Witnesses also testified that neither officer showed a badge.

An autopsy found that Iturralde

was shot five times: in the neck, chest, arm, leg and foot. The bullet to the chest struck his heart.

In his statements to the police, Officer Hardy said that he had not fired his weapon. But ballistics tests showed that one bullet from Iturralde's body matched Hardy's gun. Police say that Hardy and Todd refused to cooperate with the investigation. The officers have been suspended from the force with pay since the killing.

Toni Jackson  
Detroit, Michigan

### More need for 'Militant'

I've been a subscriber for the better part of two years. I'm glad there are strident voices on the left fighting for workers', women's, peoples of color rights. As the capitalist squeeze worsens, there will be even more need for this newspaper!

A reader  
Seattle, Washington

### N. Carolina workers

I am a student at North Carolina Central University and an employ-



ee of the University of North Carolina. I am writing to tell you about the housekeepers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who are involved in an inspirational class struggle.

They have organized themselves into an association and are fighting for living wages, opportunities for

advancement, and freedom from paternal supervisory attitudes. The group is over 80 percent black female. Their ancestors were owned by the university as chattel slaves and they are owned by the university as wage slaves.

After their case got a little media attention, one of the more outspo-

ken leaders was fired in an attempt to intimidate the group and its supporters.

A fairly well-known civil rights lawyer, Al McShirley, agreed to represent the group in a suit against the university. A judge agreed to hear the case as a class-action suit, and it will come to trial in October.

George Loveland  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

The Militant special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.



## Rightists attack refugees in Sweden

BY KERSTIN GRANBERG  
AND DECHOR HIEN

TROLLHÄTTAN, Sweden — A brutal attack against two Somali refugees and the torching of a Muslim mosque here have triggered a discussion among young people on the causes of racism and how best to respond.

The attack, which was done in full view of many witnesses, appeared to be the work of several members and sympathizers of a right-wing outfit called the Sweden Democrats. One of the assailants was seen stomping on the head of his victim.

In response to the attacks, several churches in town have organized a fundraiser to help pay for the reconstruction of the mosque and 25 students, members of the Young Left, planned a "demonstration for the equal rights of all" in the center of town. An exhibition with displays on immigration and a table with books and newspapers with information on the struggle against racism and national oppression around the world were a featured part of the action.

### 'No right to mistreat people'

Students at the Magnus Aberg School said they were disgusted with the racist acts. Many students in the school were wearing "Stop racism in Trollhättan" buttons. Four of the young people — Maria, Sara, Linda, and Camilla — gave a picture of the wide range of views held by the students.

One of the young people said she thought the reason there was so much racism was that there were too many immigrants in Sweden.

"Why is it that only the Swedes get accused of racism?" another asked, pointing to an attack against someone born in Sweden. An Iraqi immigrant has been accused in the incident. But, she continued, "revenge upon revenge can't solve anything." She proposed that immigrants from other countries only be allowed to stay in Sweden for five years. A friend objected to this proposal.

"You can't throw people out that you've already let in," she explained. "You have no right to mistreat people because of where they were born or the color of their skin. It's easy to blame immigrants when there are no jobs," she continued. "You get worked up and irritated." Fifteen hundred workers have been fired from the SAAB plant in Trollhättan.

"One year ago I thought: out with them," another of the youths said. "But then I thought a little more and I changed my mind. Especially after the racism came."

The Sweden Democrats have planned another demonstration in Trollhättan. Young Left and several other youth orga-

nizations are discussing a counterdemonstration.

In a related incident, five immigrants from Ethiopia and Eritrea were kicked out of a refugee camp in Oxelösund. The police who pushed them out of their rooms told them they could "go and live in the forest and eat leaves."

The five men — Solomon Tesfaminia, who is from Ethiopia, and Tedro Semre, Michel Thele, Mahmud Omar Ansara, and Johannes Tsekaye, all from Eritrea, came to Sweden at the end of 1990 and the beginning of 1991 to escape the war in

their countries. While their cases were being investigated, they were entitled to live in the refugee camp and receive an allowance of 970 kronor (US\$121) every two weeks. This was supposed to cover all their living expenses.

But in January the Swedish Immigration Service ruled that their cases were "not strong enough" and ordered them expelled from the country. The judge demanded that they produce passports from their country of birth, something they have been unable to do.

The government has stopped their subsis-

tence. They are now living in a tent, forced to ask local restaurants for use of bathroom and other facilities. Friends from the camp occasionally bring them food.

Tsekaye said, "We can't go back and they will not allow us to stay. We have no other place to go."

*Kerstin Granberg is a member of the Metal Workers Union. Dechor Hien is an unemployed member of the Food Workers Union. Maria Hamberg, a member of Local 4 of the Food Workers Union in Stockholm, contributed to this article.*

## L.A. rally condemns anti-immigrant drive

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — More than 500 opponents of the vicious anti-immigrant campaign under way here took to the streets October 2 to voice their opposition to attempts to whip up racist sentiments and to back demands for full rights for all immigrants, especially undocumented workers.

Pete Wilson, Republican governor of California, has issued a call for denying citizenship to children of undocumented immigrants. He has also come out in favor of a counterfeit-proof Social Security card. Not to be outdone, the two newly elected Democratic senators have joined the effort to scapegoat immigrants for massive unemployment and other social problems of this region. Barbara Boxer has called for deploying federal troops to the Mexican border, while Diane Feinstein proposes denying emergency medical care to those without documents.

Demonstrators assembled on the plaza at Olvera Street, an area that is dedicated to commemorating the Mexican heritage of this city. The crowd grew, as people were attracted by the signs, banners, speakers, and dancers dressed as Aztec warriors.

Among those addressing the gathering was Maurillo Bautista of the Service Employees International Union Local 399 and Justice for Janitors. Members of Justice for Janitors are campaigning to unionize the thousands of mainly Latino immigrants who clean the big office buildings in southern California.

Marchers stepped off at noon for the procession to the nearby Federal Building. A popular chant was "Republican, Democrats, stop the attacks on immigrants!"

A number of student groups from area campuses arrived in organized contingents,



Militant/Nelson Blackstock

About 500 opponents of anti-immigrant campaign march in Los Angeles October 2.

many carrying banners. The Association of Latin American Students at Glendale City College; the Latin American Students Association at California State University, Northridge; the Asian Pacific Coalition at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); and others were present.

After picketing the Federal Building, demonstrators assembled at the entrance-way to hear remarks by several speakers. Juan Azmarriga, a volunteer for the United Farm Workers of America, called for more

actions like this one, as well as for support to the boycott against grapes.

Paul Lee, of the Korean Immigrant Workers Advocate, said, "This new wave of immigrant scapegoating is like those seen before in this state."

A student from California State University, Fullerton, pointed to recent police attacks on students there fighting for a Chicano studies program. A representative from UCLA, where a recent fight for Chicano studies was victorious, also spoke. A Los Angeles City College student reported that a fight for Chicano studies was underway at his school.

The Pro-Immigrant Mobilization Coalition, the demonstration's sponsor, has the endorsement of a variety of immigrant rights groups, Latin American solidarity organizations, a number of union locals, and several political organizations.

The coalition has called another march for 11:00 a.m., November 13, from McArthur Park to the Federal Building.

A "March and Vigil Against the Anti-Immigrant Bashing" was organized by several religious groups, along with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union October 12.

## New Zealand students protest education cuts

BY CHRISTINE BERESFORD

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Three thousand tertiary (university) students from throughout the country marched on Parliament here September 22 to protest government cuts in education funding, rising fees, and increasing student dependence on loans.

"No cuts, no fees, education should be free!" and "What do we want? — Free education! When do we want it? — Now!" were chanted enthusiastically as one group of marchers left Victoria University and headed downtown. Cheers and claps broke out when this group joined up with marching polytechnic students who had gathered at a different starting point. The chanting became even more spirited as the protesters headed down the city's main street.

Contingents were present from the major universities in the country and from local polytechnics and teacher training colleges. The protest was bilingual as students from the polytechnic in Porirua chanted in both English and Samoan.

A rally at Parliament grounds heard from Kirsty Graham, president of the New Zealand University Students Association, who told the crowd that when she entered school five

years ago she paid NZ\$120 (US\$66) in fees per year and received an allowance of NZ\$108 per week. Now students can pay NZ\$2,000 in fees and 65 percent do not receive any allowances. Students collectively owe NZ\$400 million under various student loan schemes. Fifty-five percent of graduates do not find jobs and there are increasing instances of students forced to go to food banks and welfare agencies, she said.

Graham pointed out that government cuts to tertiary education funding mean

that students face a 35 percent rise in fees next year.

Two days later, several hundred students marched up Auckland's main street to protest education cutbacks, and demonstrations were held elsewhere. Several of them were held outside university council meetings deciding next year's fee levels.

*Christine Beresford is a member of the United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union at Griffins in Wellington.*

## Jury debates discrepancies in Denny beating

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Problems in the jury room have heightened tensions surrounding the trial of two men accused of attempting to murder truck driver Reginald Denny at the start of the Los Angeles riot last year.

After eight days of deliberations, Judge John Ouderkirk on October 12 dismissed and replaced a second juror, a white male, for personal reasons at his request. A day earlier the judge removed a woman who is Black from the jury for alleged misconduct.

Ouderkirk ordered the jury to begin deliberations all over again. Defense lawyers strongly protested the dismissal of the first juror for incompetence and said it forms a basis for a new trial or a mistrial.

"I think already they have passed the point of no return in terms of whether there can be fair and impartial jury deliberations," said Stephen Scaring, a New York criminal defense lawyer who specializes in jury selection.

Under the law, defendants must be pre-

sumed innocent unless guilt is established beyond reasonable doubt.

If the jury that is now determining the fate of Damian Williams and Henry Watson, who are Black, stands by that, they will not find the two guilty as charged in the beating of Denny, who is white.

Initially, authorities assured it was an open-and-shut case. There were five videos and a dozen witnesses to establish that Williams tried to maim and murder Denny and

Continued on Page 14